MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

11 MARCH 1985

Iran-Iraq War

Iranian planes bombed targets in Baghdad on 11 March inflicting "heavy" damage, the Iranian military staff announced in a communique broadcast by Tehran radio. The attacking planes also raided military installations in other Iraqi districts and downed an Iraqi MIG 23 aircraft, the communique added. Meanwhile, Iranian fighters chased Iraqi jets away from Tehran, according to IRNA.

The raid on Baghdad followed a wave of Iraqi attacks on Iranian civilian targets between 8 and 10 March in which air raids and missile strikes killed or wounded over 2,000 people, according to reports by IRNA. The cities and areas targeted by the Iraqis included Susangerd, Abadan, Piranshah, Khorramabad, Dezful, Sar-e Pol-e Zahab, Pasveh, Andimeshk, Navahand, Ramhormoz, Marivan, Baneh, Salehabad, Esfahan, and Tabriz. An Iraqi communique cited by Voice of the Masses radio confirmed the raids on the two largest targets, Tabriz and Esfahan, and also announced that Iraqi jets hit another "large maritime target" near Khark Island on 10 March.

Meanwhile, Iranian planes raided cities in Iraq on 9 and 10 March, IRNA announced, hitting the Khanaqin oil refinery as well as targets in Maysan, Kirkuk, and Irbil. Iraqi communiques broadcast by the Voice of the Masses said these raids were ineffectual and claimed that an Iranian plane was downed over Iraq on 9 March. However, IRNA reported an official denial by Iran's Air Force commander that an Iranian plane was shot down, and Tehran radio subsequently asserted that an Iraqi plane was downed by Iranian fighters on 10 March, a claim that was denied by an Iraqi spokesman cited by INA.

IRNA and INA both reported that Iranian artillery continued to pound Basra over the weekend, but the Iraqi agency did not say how many casualties were caused by the bombardment.

As the attacks on civilian targets mounted, UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar sent messages to the Iraqi and Iranian presidents urging them to abide by the moratorium of June 1984 and to cease attacking civilian targets as of 11 March, INA reported. In a reply reported by Voice of the Masses radio, Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz expressed readiness to fly immediately to New York to meet with De Cuellar. 'Aziz pointed out that in order to stop hitting Iranian cities and villages, Iraq must be sure that these areas are not being used to house Iranian military concentrations, a demand that has not been met because of Iran's refusal to allow UN observers into the border areas where it is currently mobilizing large forces for a "new aggression."

An Iranian military communique broadcast by Tehran radio on 9 March said that Iran would reply to Iraqi attacks by bombing "all" Iraqi cities except Karbala and three other Shi'ite holy cities. The radio also broadcast a message to the Iraqi nation from Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni, who urged the Iraqi people to depose their "bloodthirsty" president, Saddam Husayn, and expressed condolences over the reported killing by the Iraqi authorities of 10 relatives of the late Grand Ayatollah Hakim.

Lebanon

Clashes, Bombings — The Lebanese Army and local inhabitants violently resisted an IDF attempt to advance toward Al-Zrariyah on 11 March and 12 Lebanese were wounded in the clashes which involved fire by tanks and heavy machineguns, Beirut radio announced citing military sources. The fighting followed a 10 March car-bomb explosion that killed 12 IDF soldiers and wounded 14 others north of the Israeli border at Metulla, as reported by Jerusalem radio. Both the Islamic Jihad Organization and the Lebanese National Resistance Front claimed responsibility for the suicide attack, in which the driver of a Lebanese truck blew up his vehicle next to an IDF troop transporter. Earlier, five IDF soldiers were wounded by gunfire in the Al-Qasimiyah area near Tyre, the radio noted. Israeli Prime Minister Shim'on Peres' office subsequently announced that Israel will not cease its war against terrorism and will not let terror dictate its security policy, according to the radio.

In Beirut, a National Resistance spokesman told a news agency that the bomb had been intended for Metulla but a "tactical error by one of our colleagues" obliged the Resistance to detonate it inside Lebanon, Beirut radio reported. The Resistance also told AFP that the attack was in retaliation for an 8 March car-bomb in the Bi'r al-'Abd area of southern Beirut — an explosion which killed 72 people and wounded 256, according to Beirut radio. That bomb went off near the home of Shi'ite theologian Shaykh Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah, who subsequently accused "Israel and its local allies" of the attack in remarks broadcast by the clandestine Voice of the Mountain radio. The education and labor minister and the speaker of the Chamber of Deputies also held Israel responsible, according to Beirut and Voice of Lebanon radios. In a related development, sources cited by the Voice of Lebanon disclosed that the Amal movement has arrested "an Israeli collaborator" who admitted to bringing booby-trapped cars into southern Beirut. For Israel's part, the Cabinet secretary denied the Lebanese allegations that Israel was responsible for the 8 March car-bomb, and the Cabinet issued a communique condemning such methods, Jerusalem television and radio reported.

Syrian-Lebanese Talks — After lengthy talks with Lebanese officials in Bikfayya over the weekend, Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam announced in remarks broadcast by Voice of Lebanon radio that agreement was reached on points related to "the legislative decrees, political participation in the government, the security situation, and the means to implement the security plans." The discussions in Bikfayya were attended by President Amin al-Jumayyil and other Lebanese leaders, including Progressive Socialist Party (PSP) leader Walid Jun-

blatt, who told the radio that the PSP is now ready to calm down the Suq al-Gharb front in coordination with the Lebanese Army in order to pave the way for a balanced security plan acceptable to all sides.

Egypt

Message to Peres — In a message to Israeli Prime Minister Peres, President Husni Mubarak provided a detailed report of his meeting with Jordan's King Husayn and said that there is no change in the Egyptian ideas that he originally outlined in the *NEW YORK TIMES* interview, Israel's *DAVAR* reported citing Egyptian sources. According to Jerusalem radio, Mubarak promised a summit meeting with Peres following Mubarak's return from the United States.

Mubarak in France — Mubarak met with French President Francois Mitterrand on 8 March to gain France's support for his initiative and ideas that might lead to a comprehensive Middle east solution, MENA revealed.

Israel

At a "secret meeting" between Jordanian and Israeli officials in Cairo, Israel was given a list of possible Palestinian candidates, who are neither members of nor identified with PLO institutions, for the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation, *YEDI'OT AHARONOT* reported.

Pakistan

Constitution Restored — President Ziaul Haq announced on 10 March the "restoration" of the 1973 Constitution with the exception of 27 articles and 2 sub-clauses of another article, according to Karachi radio. When the nonrestored articles are "revived" and the entire constitution has been restored, martial law will be lifted, the president maintained. While the president noted that no time limit on restoring the Constitution has been set, he predicted that the process would begin "very soon."

Protest to DRA — A "strong protest" was lodged with the DRA over an attack by four DRA planes that violated Pakistan's airspace in the Domandi Post area on 7 March and fired eight rockets, Karachi radio reported.

Sudan

President Ja'far Numayri in a 10 March speech reported by SUNA maintained that the Muslim Brotherhood sought to "undermine" the Sudanese Government from within and "seize power." Numayri said he would issue the appropriate decisions to preserve the nation. The agency later announced that Numayri dismissed three officials, five legal advisers, and three judges. MENA disclosed that one of those dismissed, Minister of State Muhammad Adam 'Isa, was among the 20 Muslim Brotherhood members arrested by Sudanese authorities on 10 March.

Maghreb Affairs

Tunisia — Prime Minister Mohamed Mzali referred to university "disturbances" during a statement to the Central Committee of the Socialist Dustur Party reported by Tunis radio. He accused a "minority" belonging to various political trends and ideologies of trying to impose its will on campus, using violent methods in order to create "chaos."

Western Sahara — A Saharan Information Ministry statement cited by APS claimed that Polisario killed or wounded 40 Moroccan soldiers in recent attacks on their positions.

Yemeni Relations With China

The PDRY and PRC foreign ministers held "identical or similar" views on major international issues during talks in Beijing on 10 March, XINHUA reported. Meanwhile, a PRC government minister concluded a visit to the PDRY on 8 March and began talks in the YAR the following day, according to Aden and Sanaa radios.

Arab League

Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi condemned the U.S.-Israeli free trade agreement as a measure that will enhance Israel's "aggressive capabilities," APS reported, and he warned that the Arab states may retaliate by boycotting companies and institutions whose activities fall within the framework of the agreement.

FBIS **DAILY REPORT**

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'Arafat on International Conference, Soviet Role

JN091727 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1615 GMT 9 Mar 85

[Text] Brother leader Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] has reiterated that a just and comprehensive solution to the Middle East crisis can be achieved only through an international conference under UN auspices to be attended by a joint PLO-Jordanian delegation. In a statement to the French magazine *LE NOUVEL OBSERVATEUR* published yesterday, Abu 'Ammar said that future relations between Jordan and the independent Palestinian state will have the form of a confederation between two states with each having its own national sovereignty. He pointed out that this stand constitutes part of the Palestinian-Jordanian agreement.

Brother leader Abu 'Ammar called on the European states to frankly recognize the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and to establish their independent state.

Regarding the Soviet stand toward that recent Palestinian-Jordanian agreement, Brother Abu 'Ammar said that the basic principle governing Palestinian-Soviet relations is based on the communique that he had signed with late Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev in Moscow in 1983. He explained that that communique stresses the USSR's support for a confederation between Jordan and the Palestinian state.

'Arafat Briefs Soviet, GDR Ambassadors in Tunis

JN091731 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1615 GMT 9 Mar 85

[Text] Brother leader Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] has met with the Soviet ambassador in Tunis at the Palestinian headquarters there. Our radio correspondent said they discussed developments in the Arab region, particularly in the Palestine question.

Brother leader Abu 'Ammar also met with the GDR ambassador in Tunis and discussed developments in the Palestine question.

Abu 'Ammar's meetings with two ambassadors of the Eastern bloc are within the framework of PLO contacts to explain the objectives of the Palestinian-Jordanian agreement and the PLO's stand toward peace efforts in the Middle East.

'Arafat Sends Messages to Fidel Castro, Rajiv Gandhi

JN091742 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1615 GMT 9 Mar 85

[Text] Brother leader Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] has sent messages to Cuban President Fidel Castro and Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi. Our radio correspondent has learned that the two messages deal with recent developments in the Middle East, particularly regarding the Palestine question and the meeting of the coordination council of the Nonaligned Movement, which will convene in New Delhi next month.

The correspondent added that Abu 'Ammar delivered the messages to the Cuban and Indian ambassadors when he met them separately in Tunis yesterday.

Contacts Held To Arrange 'Arafat Visit to Italy

JN101734 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1606 GMT 10 Mar 85

[Text] Diplomatic sources in Rome have said that intensified contacts were held recently between the PLO and high-level Italian diplomatic and party circles in order to arrange for a visit to Italy by brother leader Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat]. The sources pointed out that the aim of brother leader Abu 'Ammar's expected visit is to discuss what Europe and the United States have recently agreed upon regarding the Middle East prior to the convocation of the European summit in June 1985, when the European states will announce their stand toward several important international issues.

'Arafat Aide on Jordanian Accord, Pressuring U.S.

LD102153 Kuwait KUNA in English 1823 GMT 7 Mar 85

[Text] London, March 7 (KUNA) — A senior aide to PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat Thursday described the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement as "a very important step towards peace" in the Middle East.

Addressing the Royal Institute of International Affairs in London, Khalid al-Hasan [Abu al-Sa'id] called on the international community, and especially the United States, to seize this "very rare opportunity" to find a settlement to the Arab-Israeli dispute.

He pointed out that if this "opportunity" were not taken, the Palestinians would "drop the olive branch".

Abu al-Sa'id urged the international community and Europe to press the United States and to "capitalise pressure on the white house" to change its position towards the PLO and pressure Israel.

The chairman of the PNC Foreign Relations committee emphasised the importance of the accord reached between King Husayn of Jordan and PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat and called it a "very practical move" designed to secure a durable peace.

Al-Hasan explained to his audience at the institute in detail the circumstances that led to the pact and gave a full account of all its articles.

The senior Palestinian official recalled that some parties had attacked the agreement without reading it, but underlined that the "mainstream" Palestinians had supported it.

Abu al-Sa'id said that "we should be practical and try to revise efforts to resolve the Palestinian question".

In addition, he underlined the necessity of recognising the PLO as the legitimate representative of the Palestinian people and through which the organisation could form its delegation to the peace talks "either from within or without".

The importance was that it should be Palestinians, Al-Hasan asserted. "The people inside the occupied Arab territories recognise the PLO as their representatives".

Regarding U.N. resolution 242, he made it clear that it could not be accepted by the Palestinians because it ignored their political existence and was only limited to the after-effects of the 1967 war.

He recalled that Egypt, Syria and Jordan had recognised this resolution which did not take into account the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people according to international legality.

Al-Hasan suggested that if Israel and the United States really wanted peace, the current move was a "practical action and a starting point".

He defended Jordanian-Palestinian coordination and efforts to reach a confederation between both sides because it was in both parties' interests.

Al-Hasan noted that peace could not be achieved without justice as the two were closely connected.

Referring to the Israeli invasion of Lebanon, the Palestinian official said tha the Israeli withdrawal from that country was the fundamental step to achieve peace.

The question now was whether the Israelis would also accept pulling out from both the Golan Heights and West Bank and other occupied territories as Lebanon's occupation was similar to occupying any other parts of the Arab world.

He observed that American President Reagan had indicated clearly in his 1982 initiative on the Middle East that the war in Lebanon would not solve the problem.

One of the objectives of both the U.S. and Israel was the elimination of the PLO but the Palestinian organisation would always remain "an identity and [words indistinct] the Palestinians that could not be eliminated through bullets".

On the dissension in Palestinian ranks he underscored that it only represented 10 percent of the Palestinians and the PLO had reasserted its existence inside and outside the occupied territories and "was not buried or eliminated after Lebanon".

Al-Hasan also asserted the importance of the independence of Palestinian decision-making which was demonstrated during the PNC meeting in Amman.

Further on Remarks

GF101750 Al-Shariqah AL-KHALIJ in Arabic 8 Mar 85 p 18

[Text] London, QNA — Khalid al-Hasan [Abu al-Sa'id], Fatah Central Committee member and chairman of the PNC Foreign Affairs Committee, has announced that the agreement between the PLO and Jordan on the joint move, including the acceptance of Resolution No 242 and the other UN resolutions pertaining to the Palestinian question, is the most the PLO can contribute to the efforts exerted to reach a settlement for the Arab-Israeli conflict.

In a meeting with a number of Arab and foreign researchers and observers who are concerned with the Middle East question, he said that the PLO does not want to place obstacles and difficulties before the current diplomatic moves, to prevent the peace process from collapsing.

He stressed that no hopeful progress can be achieved by the proposed initiatives unless the United States is prepared to pressure Israel into withdrawing from the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip in implementation of Resolution No 242 and into withdrawing its forces from the occupied Syrian Golan Heights, too.

Khalid al-Hasan discussed the subject of the Joranian- Palestinian agreement in detail and said that His Majesty King Husayn told him personally that he, that is, the Jordanian monarch, has become completely convinced that it is impossible to impose a leadership on the Palestinian people if this leadership does not stem from within this people.

He added that the joint agreement is not only an important step toward peace but an expression of the mutual interests of both sides. He explained that Jordan without Palestine and the establishment of the state without a mechanism, and that the Palestinians without Jordan are a people without a "visa." [sentence as published]

He also said that the problem is not confined to the manner of forming the delegation to the negotiations, but the real problem lies in the question of recognizing the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, and it was agreed to leave the question of forming the Palestinian delegation to the PLO.

Call For Salvation Front To Oppose Accord With Jordan

PM081230 Damascus AL-BA'TH in Arabic 5 Mar 85 p 2

[Unattributed report: "Palestinian Forces Continue Rejection of Amman's Liquidationist Agreement; Emphasis on Forming National Salvation Front and Consolidating Ties with Syria"]

[Excerpts] The Palestinian forces and leaderships have continued to express their rejection and denunciation of the Husayn-'Arafat liquidationist agreement. In statements they have issued, they have stressed the need to establish a national salvation front in order to thwart the agreement and resist 'Arafat's deviationist line.

The Palestinian Unification Action Committee, which includes a number of Palestinian nationalist, literary, and business personalities, has called for the recent Amman agreement to be toppled and for Egyptian President Husni Mubarak's initiative, which is in harmony with the Husayn-'Arafat accord, to be rejected.

In a statement issued yesterday, the committee stressed that the Amman agreement is contrary to PNC resolutions and turns the Palestinian people's national cause into a border issue. It also jeopardizes the PLO's sole representation of the Palestinian people and its independence. It also jeopardizes the Palestinian

people's right to self-determination and prevents the establishment of a sovereign Palestinian state.

The statement called on all strugglers and Palestinian forces and personalities, particularly inside the Fatah movement, to take the initiative to abrogate the Amman agreement in order to create a suitable climate and sound basis for the resumption of a comprehensive national dialogue with a view to restoring the PLO's unity on the basis of the PNC resolutions and the Aden-Algiers agreement.

The statement also stressed the importance of developing and deepening the ties of national alliance between the PLO and countries of the socialist bloc, foremost of which is the Soviet Union.

The meeting led to the setting up of a committee headed by Brother Zuhdi al-Hashashibi called "The Palestinian Unification Committee" [lajnat al-'amal al-wahdawi al-falastini] in order to carry out contacts and take steps to achieve the said objectives.

The statement was signed by 101 Palestinian nationalist, socialist, and trade union personalities in Syria, including 12 PNC members.

At the conclusion of its ordinary session, the Central Committee of the Arab Struggle stressed that the Husayn-'Arafat agreement is based on the Camp David accords and the Reagan plan to liquidate the Palestinian cause.

The committee said in a statement it issued yesterday that the activities of the Husayn-Mubarak-'Arafat axis pose a danger not only to the Palestinian cause but also to the whole area and to the struggle being waged by the Arab and world liberation movements.

The committee called for speeding up the formation of a Palestinian national salvation front consisting of all the Palestinian nationalist forces and personalities in order to abort the policies of deviation and surrender, topple the deviationist leaders, and protect the Palestinian national cause against the dangers of abandonment and liquidation.

The magazine *NIDAL AL-SHA'B* called in its issue yesterday for the establishment of a Palestinian national salvation front that will undertake the task of toppling the 'Arafat-Husayn agreement and oppose the Jordanian regime's policy of joining U.S. plans.

The magazine *FILISTIN AL-THAWRAH*, organ of the Fatah Central Committee, said that the policies of 'Arafat's treacherous group are not a haphazard matter but rather are part of a program aimed at creating an atmosphere making possible the perpetration of treason and surrender in the name of our Palestinian people and Arab masses.

AL-ANWAR on Palestinians' Return to Lebanon

NC102240 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1615 GMT 10 Mar 85

[Text] Beirut, 10 Mar (MENA) — *AL-ANWAR* reports today that PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat has ordered 20 Palestinian officers and officials in the Colonel Raji al-Najmi Command to leave Tunis directly for Beirut to assume the military affairs administration and reorganize the Palestinian military cadres and equipment in Lebanon.

Quoting a Lebanese security report, the paper adds that the Palestinian officials are making preparations for resuming the Palestinian armed and political presence in Beirut by setting up underground cells in the south and reopening centers and offices in Beirut and some other areas. Mobilization has been declared in the youth ranks in Palestinian camps in Lebanon and weapons are being distributed among them to prepare for a possible and decisive battle between 'Arafat's supporters and those of Abu Musa [Sa'id Musa Muragha], leader of Fatah and PLO dissidents.

The report says that Khalid 'Arif, the official in charge of delegates' security in Fatah, has arrived in Sidon and has begun his activity there. Among the most prominent Palestinian figures who arrived in Beirut recently was Tawfiq al-Safadi, official in charge of the PLO office in Beirut. The report notes that the Palestinian entry into Beirut and Sidon continues daily in various forms and that the main entry points to Sidon and nearby areas are the 'Ayn al-Hulwah and Al-Miyah wa Miyah camps near Sidon.

The report adds, according to the paper, that Yasir 'Arafat is now trying to transfer the Palestinian finance committee's headquarters from Damascus to Beirut because he believes that the Lebanese capital will return to being the main staging point for fedayeen actions against the occupation forces and that the coming phase requires further expenditures to reorganize the Palestinian military structure in Lebanon. The report did not rule out the possibility that 'Arafat will pay a quick inspection visit to Beirut to see what has been accomplished by the Palestinian officials who have returned to Beirut.

The report also says that the Arab Liberation Front is reorganizing its ranks in Lebanon and that it has sent a team of military officers to Sidon to supervise cadres there operating under its wing.

The report expresses fear of inter-Palestinian clashes which will subsequently involve other organizations and parties, thus negatively affecting the Lebanese situation and opening the door to the return of the Israeli forces to southern Lebanon.

Mahmud 'Abbas Wants USSR at Middle East Conference

LD081432 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1324 GMT 8 Mar 85

[Text] Tunis, 8 Mar (KUNA) — Mahmud 'Abbas, PLO Executive Committee member, said here today that "the PLO considers the presence of the USSR at the international conference for solving the Middle East question as a sure guarantee for the Palestinian people attaining their national legitimate rights." He

added that the "PLO agrees with holding such an international conference as a framework for a just and comprehensive solution to the Middle East crisis and the Palestine question and as a start for negotiations."

"In this respect," he said, "we affirm our rejection, which we have repeatedly reiterated, of all the solutions — the separatist solutions which the United States and Israel are resorting to in a bid to keep both the PLO and the USSR out and to bring the region back to the Camp David climate, which completely disregards the Palestinian right to self-determination, the establishment of their independent state on Palestinian soil, and the return of the Palestinian people to their country under the leadership of the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinians."

Voice of PLO on USSR-Palestinian Relations

JN101816 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1650 GMT 10 Mar 85

[Station commentary]

[Text] In more than one press statement, brother leader Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] has described the Soviet-Palestinian relations by saying that the Soviet friends have preferred their Syrian ally to their Palestinian friend. Brother Abu 'Ammar did not say this in order to blame the USSR or to express his concern or anger. He said this out of his understanding of the movement of interests and alliances, and in accordance with long experience, during which the Soviet friends — throughout many chapters of this experience — have not been able to extend us enough aid — not because they refused to do so, but out of their consideration for their Syrian ally, who has put all of the Soviets' Syrian cards in one hand and the stand toward the PLO in the other.

Despite this, we do not consider changing our convictions toward our great friend, the USSR. Moreover, we will not relinquish our entrenched policy toward the USSR as an important friend of our people, our cause, and our national struggle. However, sincere friends must dot the i's and avoid illusions in their relations.

We are friends of the USSR. The history of Palestinian-Soviet relations has never registered any disruption of these relations from our side. In fact, we have opened many closed doors to our Soviet friends. They have also done the same thing in many fields.

Proceeding from this fact, we have the right to warn our friends in Moscow of their ally in Damascus — an ally who seeks to entrench Al-Sadat's school regarding strategic deals. Al-Sadat made an equation that says: Weapons from Moscow and politics from Washington. All signs indicate that Al-Sadat's course has now been adopted by the Damascus rulers. Camp Murphy is not the final proof of this.

At any rate, we will continue to state and to confirm our sincere and strong relations with the USSR. We will also continue to give decisive proof that we are able to safeguard these relations and to honestly assume our responsibility toward them.

Arab League's Klibi Denounces U.S.-Israel Trade Accord

LD091759 Algiers APS in Arabic 0900 GMT 9 Mar 85

[All quotation marks as received]

[Text] Tunis, 9 mar (APS) — Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi strongly denounced yesterday the U.S.-Israel agreement on the creation of a free trade area between the United States and the Zionist entity. In a statement published in Tunisia, Klibi warned of the possible "repercussions" of such a development on Arab-American relations, and called on the Washington administration "to reconsider" its position in the light of Arab-American interests.

As the Arab League secretary general pointed out, the new trade agreement, which provides for the creation of a free trade area between the United States and Israel, constitutes a new stage in the course of intensifying the aggressive capabilities of Israel and will help the latter to overcome the economic crisis from which it is suffering and which has taken it to the verge of strangulation, and consequently enhance its aggressive capabilities to continue with its expansionist policy." Concluding his statement, Klibi pointed out that the Arab countries, which adhere to the principle of mutual benefit, reiterate their legitimate right to defend their interests and their determination to take all necessary measures to protect these rights, including a boycott of economic companies and institutions contributing to activities falling within the framework of the new agreement."

Arab League Delegation Meets With Polish Group

LD081034 Tunis TAP in French 1300 GMT 7 Mar 85

[Text] Tunis, 7 Mar (TAP) — A delegation of the Arab League led by Deputy General Secretary Adnane Omrane met a Polish delegation led by Ernst Kucza, Polish under secretary of state for foreign affairs, in a working session on Wednesday at Arab League headquarters. It has been learned from sources close to the Arab League delegation that the meeting dealt with several international topics, including world tension and disarmament.

The same sources indicate that the talks dealt notably with the situation in the Arab world. On this occasion, the Arab League delegation presented the latest developments in the Palestinian question and the Arab efforts with a view to implementing the Fes Arab summit resolutions and making the rights of the Palestinian people a reality. The meeting also dealt with the developments in the Iran-Iraq war and the need to put an end to it, to ensure the success of the international initiatives for peace, and to bring Iran to accept these initiatives.

The two delegations also discussed the Lebanese crisis and the importance of international solidarity in backing the Lebanese national resistance and in helping to put an end to Israeli actions in the region and for rebuilding what has been destroyed in this country. The same sources indicated that the Polish delegation has stated its country's support of just Arab causes and Poland's and other socialist countries' support of the (?Palestinian) people [words indistinct].

BAHRAIN

Amir Receives Jordanian Minister 8 March

GF081200 Manama Domestic Service in Arabic 1030 GMT 8 Mar 85

[Text] His Highness the Amir Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah, received at Al-Rifa' Palace today Tahir al-Masri, the Jordanian foreign minister, who is currently visiting the country.

Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak Al Khalifah, the foreign minister; Shaykh Muhammad ibn Khalifah Al Khalifah, the interior minister; and Ahmad al-Hindawi, the Jordanian ambassador to Bahrain, attended the meeting.

WAKH carries a statement by the Jordanian foreign minister in which he said he was honored by meeting his highness the amir to whom he handed a written message from his brother King Husayn ibn Talal of Jordan dealing with relations between the two fraternal countries, the Jordanian-Palestinian accord and the circumstances which led to it, and current Arab developments.

He said he also reviewed with his highness the amir Jordan's stands on the Jordanian-Palestinian accord and some views which some Arab leaders have presented in this regard.

The Jordanian envoy added that he reviewed with his highness the amir some of the steps proposed in future Jordanian-Palestinian relations and the overall Arab situation. He said his highness the amir gave his instructions and views which he would convey to his brother King Husayn ibn Talal.

He said contacts between the amir and the Jordanian monarch will continue so that the two countries will follow the right and proper path to serve the Arab nation's causes, particularly the Palestinian cause. He announced that the Jordanian Government and the PLO will consolidate the joint plan between them — the accord which was signed by the two sides.

He noted that he is currently making a tour of the region's countries and a number of Arab countries to brief their leaders on the details of the Jordanian-Palestinian accord, and that his visit to Bahrain is part of this tour.

In conclusion, he said when these consultations are completed by Jordan and the PLO, the accord will be approved on the Arab level.

Amir Departs for Visit Abroad 10 March

GF100825 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0645 GMT 10 Mar 85

[Excerpt] Manama, 10 Mar (WAKH) — Amir of Bahrain Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah left Manama today for a visit abroad of several days.

Before his departure, the amir of Bahrain issued a decree, deputizing Shaykh Hamad ibn 'Isa Al Khalifah to assume the rule during his absence.

KUWAIT

Prime Minister Addresses National Assembly Opening

LD091218 Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic 0611 GMT 9 Mar 85

[Speech by Kuwaiti Heir Apparent and Prime Minister Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah at the opening of the first term of the Sixth Judicial Session of the Kuwaiti National Assembly in Kuwait — live]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Brother members of the honorable National Assembly. As we celebrate the opening of the sixth legislative session following the celebration of the 24th anniversary of our National Day, it pleases me to address myself to all my brother citizens congratulating them sincerely on these two great occasions. In my name and the name of my brother members of the government, may I congratulate you on the trust vested in you by the voters. I pray to God Almighty to help you in shouldering the big task entrusted to you. Like the whole people of Kuwait, you brothers must feel that we, the government and the National Assembly, are passing through critical conditions which demand that we join hands for the sake of Kuwait and its people, and to depict a spirit of objectivity and selflessness.

In all fairness, the picture of what has been achieved cannot be complete without touching frankly on some of the negative manifestations that have accompanied our dialogues. First and foremost was the extreme exaggeration used by some in painting a picture of the negative aspects of the state institutions and in belittling the positive aspects and achievements made. While hoping that the new legislative session will provide a better approach, the government on its part wishes to stress that we are partners in one contingent and that we all shoulder the responsibility for safeguarding of the interests of Kuwait and its people.

Brother assembly members. Public service now demands a great sacrifice of comfort and much effort. The preservation of the democratic life and the ensuring of its course demands a balanced outlook characterized by prudence, rationalism and avoidance of emotionalism. We must exert all efforts to understand the conflicts in our area and throughout the world, cooperating together amid this turbulent ocean, for safeguarding the security, safety and stability of our homeland.

We have seen in the past and still see today what has become of peoples in countries not far from us because they have been blinded by fanaticism and thus have fallen into grave pitfalls as a result of the division of their people into factions and blocs that destroy their unity and cohesion and brings upon them numerous evils which robs them of their freedom and obstructs their march.

The time has come and gone when some of us imagined that money alone could develop society and that oil alone was sufficient to meet our needs, however big our ambitions and aspirations. We must recall in this connection that belonging to the homeland is a matter of give and take and one of rights and duties.

The government will pay special attention to the development of the state administrative machinery. This development does not mean, as some may imagine, the redressing of any shortcomings or departures from the law wherever this may occur alone, for this is part of the duty of the government and its various machinery; the law is capable of guaranteeing the carring out of this work. But the development of the administrative machinery constitutes part of the overall development and consequently, it aims at the modernization of all the institutions of the society so that they become more capable of meeting the demands of the new phase of development which is more complex and intricate than the previous phase. Since the government, during the last session of the National Assembly, set up a special committee to study the necessary steps for administrative reform, this step includes among its main tasks the taking of practical steps to begin an integrated program that ensures raising the level of performance of empioyees at their various posts and grades.

Brother members of the assembly. Starting from the belief that the people have a major role in realizing development, the government will remain responsible for two main points upon the future of progress in Kuwait depends. The first is youth and the second is education and culture.

Brother members of the assembly. The government need not emphasize to your excellencies its belief in the importance of intensifying the efforts to provide security and safety to the sons of Kuwait and for all those who life in it. Hence, the government devotes special attention to its sons, the security people, training them and raising the level of their performance. The vigilance of all citizens and their sense of duty and cooperation with the security authorities remain of an element of the utmost importance in ensuring the national march, maintaining the security of society and the safety of its sons, and respecting the rights of man and maintaining his dignity.

Protecting the homeland and maintaining its sovereignty and independence in facing outside aggression demand continued attention to developing the defensive and combat potentials of our Armed Forces, as represented in the broad move to diversify the sources of arming our forces in a manner that would raise their proficiency and enable them to fulfill their national duty under all circumstances. Arming and training are but one element of the military power. The belief of our sons, men of the Armed Forces, in their duty and the readiness of the whole people behind them to make sacrifices, remain the cornerstone of the might and combat strength of the Army. Hence, the government will spare no effort in encouraging the spirit of sacrifice and let each citizen sense his duty in protecting the homeland and its sovereignty.

Brother members of the assembly. Since its independence Kuwait has had a clearly defined foreign policy built on firm principles. Its prime axis is maintaining the independence of Kuwait and its sovereignty and the independence of its political decision. Its second axis is Arab and Islamic commitment which stems from the fact that its people belong to the Arab and Islamic nation, and have close bonds with its interests and culture and the defense of its major causes. The foremost cause is the independence of its will in the face of the major powers and defending its interests in the face of the expansionist designs of the Zionist entity, which still occupies parts of Arab territory and denies the Palestinian Arab people their land and right to self-determination. The third axis is defense of the causes of freedom, justice and peace, human rights in international relations, rejection of alignment to any of the major powers whose struggle is represented by the continuing arms race, a race which is no less ferocious than the struggle for the domination of the interests of the small countries and control of their will.

These principles will remain a basis for the government's foreign policy, along with paying special attention to the relations linking Kuwait with its sisters in the GCC and cooperating with them in strengthening this council and increasing its effectiveness, considering it a natural and necessary framework for defending their interests, coordinating their efforts to protect the security of the region, and achieving prosperity and stability on its territory.

As a result of this policy Kuwait has had to bear many pains and pressures. However, it has been able, by wisely adhering to itsprinciples and through cooperation with its Arab sisters and friendly peoples, to continue its march to overcome the difficulties and crises which it has encountered. However, the last few years, as you know, have witnessed extremely dangerous developments affecting the region's security and main interests. The most dangerous of these developments is the armed conflict between Iraq and Iran, a conflict which poses a threat to the whole region. Kuwait has made many moves for the purpose of ending this war in cooperation with its sister countries of the GCC and many other Arab and friendly countries. The government will increase its efforts in this area, confident that your honorable assembly believes in the importance of these efforts.

Brother members. In the Arab sphere, the government considers it is time for a truthful stand about Arab realities and expectations, a stand which clearly underlines the necessity to carry out an actions by which the Arab nation will surmount the causes of disputes and will set the priorities of its joint action.

Brother members. One of the distinguished aspects of our march is that our steps along the path of comprehenisve development and our continous efforts to realize our foreign and domestic interests to confront the obstacles blocking our path are all taking place within a framework of total legality and in a healthy atmosphere in which the freedom of citizens flourishes and their patricipation in arranging the affairs of their society is realized. The government is fully determined to maintain, in cooperation with the honorable assembly, this shining aspect of our life, having faith that that the great opportunities of achievements in national action are growing and increasing with a sense of security and freedom and dignity of all the citizens.

Brother members of the honorable assembly. The government is aware of the enormous responsibility on its shoulders and on the shoulders of your honorable assembly and is fully aware that the coming years will bring many challenges. However, it also realizes that we have faith in God, may He be praised and glory to Him, and that the cohesion of our ranks will enable us to surmount many of the difficulties and to realize many of the targets and aspirations.

We beseech Almighty God to protect Kuwait and its people and to trust in the guidance and care of the leader of our march, his highness the amir of Kuwait, may God protect him.

National Assembly Speaker, Deputy Elected

LD091204 Kuwait KUNA in English 1008 GMT 9 Mar 85

[Text] Kuwait, March 9 (KUNA) — Ahmad al-Sa'dun was elected uncontested Saturday as National Assembly speaker. Deputy Salih al-Fadhalah was elected as deputy speaker, Faysal al-Duwaysh secretary, and Falah al-Hajraf as assembly rapporteur.

The Ad Hoc Committee members responsible for replying to the Amiri address were elected unopposed as follows: Hammud al-Rumi, 'Abd al-Rahman al-Ghunaym, Faysal al-Sani', Hadi al-Hawilah and Falah al-Hajraf. Members of the Complaints Committee were also elected uncontested as follows: Khalid al-Jumay'an, Sa'd Falah al-Tami, Khamis Talaq, Rashid al-Hutaylan and Jasir al-Jasir.

OMAN

Jordanian Foreign Minister Meets With Sultan

GF091717 Salalah Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 9 Mar 85

[Text] His Majesty Sultan Qabus Al Bu Sa'id this afternoon received at the sultani camp Jordanian Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri, who conveyed to his majesty a written message from his brother King Husayn of Jordan. The meeting was attended by Yusuf al-'Alawi 'Abdallah, minister of state for foreign affairs.

Tahir al-Masri stated that the message pertains to consultations between the two big leaders and developments in the Arab arena in general and the Palestinian arena in particular. He said that the Sultanate of Oman and Jordan hold the same views on these issues.

With regard to the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement, Tahir al-Masri said that the PLO has not demanded amendments in it, only an explanation of some of the articles. He said that two articles in the agreement were explained to satisfy both sides. He said: We ask God to help in the success of the efforts of the Egyptian president in his talks with the U.S. officials and to enable him to bring the U.S. stance close to the Arab views. At the conclusion of his statement he expressed Jordan's readiness for peace in exchange for land and affirmed that his country still believes Resolution 242 provides a good basis for negotiations.

Concludes Visit, Departs

GF100830 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0800 GMT 10 Mar 85

[Excerpt] Muscat, 10 Mar (WAKH) — Jordanian Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri left Muscat today after a 2-day visit to the Sultanate of Oman.

QATAR

Jordan's Foreign Minister Delivers Message to Amir

GF091145 Doha Domestic Service in Arabic 1030 GMT 9 Mar 85

[Text] His highness the amir, Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Thani, has received a written message from his brother King Husayn of Jordan dealing with the latest Arab developments in general and the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement in particular. The message was conveyed by Jordanian Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri during his meeting with the amir in the amir's office at Al-Dawhah Palace at 0930 today. Foreign Minister Shaykh Ahmad ibn Sayf Al Thani and the Jordanian ambassador in Doha, Dr Khalid 'Ubaydat, attended the meeting.

The Jordanian minister is making a tour of a number of Arab capitals during which he will deliver similar messages to their leaders.

Meets Counterpart, Departs

GF091146 Doha Domestic Service in Arabic 1030 GMT 9 Mar 85

[Text] Shaykh Ahmad ibn Sayf Al Thani, minister of state for foreign affairs, met at his office this morning with Jordanian Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri. During the meeting they reviewed relations between the two fraternal countries and means of developing them. They also discussed a number of issues of mutual concern. The meeting was attended by the Jordanian ambassador to Qatar, Dr Khalid 'Ubaydat.

The Jordanian foreign minister left Doha after a 2-day visit to Qatar. He was seen off at Doha International Airport by Shaykh Ahmad ibn Sayf Al Thani, minister of state for foreign affairs; and Dr Khalid 'Ubaydat, Jordanian ambassador to the State of Qatar.

Amir Comments on Upcoming Visit to Turkey

TA091813 Ankara Domestic Service in Turkish 1700 GMT 9 Mar 85

[Text] Qatari Amir Shaykh Khlifah ibn Hamad Al Thani, who will arrive on an official visit to Turkey tomorrow, has expressed the belief that joint efforts will be exerted to strengthen bilateral cooperation.

In a statement to ANATOLIA AGENCY, Al Thani said the two countries will continue to develop various fields of cooperation and that the strength of their support for the Islamic cause will increase. Al Thani said: Since my brother His Excellency Kenan Evren and I share the desire to continue our joint efforts aimed at furthering our rights and interests, we will give priority to developing bilateral relations during the upcoming talks. Therefore, I would like to state that we have taken a significant step in this direction by reaching an agreement on the basis of bilateral economic, technical, and cultural cooperation. Referring to the pipeline project which will transport natural gas from

Qatar to Europe via Turkey, Al Thani said that he does not believe that this project will be faced with insurmountable obstacles.

Noting Turkey's praiseworthy efforts to end the Iran-Iraq war, Al Thani said that this war threatens regional peace, stability, and economy and therefore, it also endangers world peace and security. He also expressed the belief that the UN secretary general will resume his efforts to reach a just solution acceptable to both sides involved in the Cyprus problem.

Al Thani will be received by President Kenan Evren with a ceremony at Esenboga Airport tomorrow. The Turkish-Qatari official talks will be held at the Cankaya Mansion tomorrow. The development of bilateral economic and trade relations and regional problems will be discussed at the talks. Al Thani, who will also visit the military electronics industry installations in Ankara, will leave Turkey on Wednesday after visiting historical sites in Istanbul.

An exhibition of Qatari industrial goods and handicrafts opened in Ankara on the occasion of Al Thani's forthcoming visit. Speaking at the opening of the exhibition, the Qatari ambassador to Ankara said that there are cultural ties between the two countries. He added that Qatar wants to strengthen these ties and to initiate joint ventures in both economic and social fields. The exhibition, organized at the State Painting and Sculpture Museum, will remain open for a week. Photographs highlighting the various aspects of life in Qatar are included in the exhibition.

Interviewed by Turkish Media

GF091944 Manama WAKH in English 1615 GMT 9 Mar 85

[Text] Doha, March 9, (GNA) — The Amir of Qatar H.H. Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Thani said the GCC has been established by countries linked to each other by religion, language, traditions, history, adjacency and similar economic and political system.

In wide interview with Turkish ANATOLIAN NEWS AGENCY H.H. the amir said these bonds were the source from which the idea of establishing the council stemmed, as well as the basis of defining the councils objectives and the method of implementing them. There is concrete evidence that the council, by virture of its keenness to have its steps forward well-considered and gradual, has succeeded in a relatively short period not exceeding four years in making very important accomplishments which have gained international appreciation.

On his official visit to Turkey which will begin tomorrow Sunday, H.H. praised the historical relations between the two countries. He also described the relations as deep rooted. In a statement carried by the QATARI NEWS AGENCY H.H. the Amir Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Thani said his talks with Turkish President Kenan Evren would focus on bilateral relations and means of developing them, to proceed with joint efforts in the interest and good of the two countries people. H.H. the amir pointed out that they have taken a major step to this end by agreeing to the basis of economic, technical and cultural cooperation between the two countries.

The talks will also cover regional and international issues mainly the Iraq-Iran war. In this respect H.H. the amir hailed the Turkish efforts to stop the Iraq-Iran war. H.H. the amir expressed the hope that Turkey's efforts would combine with Arab states, Islamic organizations and international power concerned to reach an equitable peaceful solution that would bring an end to this tragic conflict.

Regarding a question whether there are chances of carrying Qatar's natural gas to Europe through Turkey and whether there are obstacles in the way, the amir of Qatar said "I do not think that there are insurmountable obstacles to the implementation of a project to carry natural gas from Qatar to Europe. The major factor on which the execution of the project depends is finding a market for Qatari gas in Europe."

"However, this plan, which has been proposed recently is still in its initial phase, and its technical, economic and marketing aspects require many serious studies. Competent authorities in Qatar will undertake these studies. In particular, we will pursue studies of the world gas market, follow its developments and seek opportunities for marketing Qatari gas." He said that in the light of all these studies, we will undertake the necessary contacts and negotiations with parties concerned with the proposed pipeline.

Regarding Qatar's policy on the problem and its feelings towards the Turkish Muslims of the island Shaykh Khalifah said, "Qatar has been following the developments of the Cyprus problem from the beginning with great interest. This is only natural as there are dear Muslim brothers on the island on the one hand, and since, on the other hand, Cyprus is located near our Arab region, and major events occuring there have repercussions through the whole Middle East."

"There is doubt that the Cyprus problem has become a source of tension in the eastern Mediterranean, and its continuation without settlement has become a cause of mounting concern in the region. However, efforts by the United Nations secretary-general to find a peaceful solution fair to both parties was a positive step," he said. He said, "although these efforts have not succeeded yet, we hope that wisdom will prevail and the secretary-general would succeed in resuming them in order to reach a just settlement acceptable to both parties," he added.

Departs for Turkey

GF100950 Doha QNA in Arabic 0835 GMT 10 Mar 85

[Excerpts] Doha, 10 Mar (QNA) — Amir of Qatar Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad al Thani left Doha for Turkey today on a 3-day official visit at the invitation of Turkish President General Kenan Evren. The amir of Qatar is accompanied by a high-ranking delegation which includes Shaykh 'Abd al-'Aziz ibn Khalifah Al Thani, minister of finance and oil; Shaykh Ahmad ibn Sayf Al Thani, minister of state for foreign affairs; Dr Hasan Kamil, adviser to the amir; 'Isa Ghanim al-Kuwari, minister of information and director of the Amir's Office, and Muhammad Rashid al-Khalifah, Qatari ambassador to Turkey. The amir is also accompanied by an information and press delegation composed of owners and chief editors of local newspapers.

PNC Speaker Al-Sa'ih Leaves Doha for Amman

GF080920 Doha QNA in Arabic 0745 GMT 8 Mar 85

[Excerpt] Doha, 8 Mar (QNA) — PNC Speaker His Eminence Shaykh 'Abd al-Hamid al-Sa'ih left Doha for Amman this morning after a 4-day visit to Qatar.

SAUDI ARABIA

King Denounces Israeli Attacks in Southern Lebanon

LD082035 Riyadh SPA in English 1900 GMT 8 Mar 85

[Text] Riyadh, March 8, SPA — Saudi Arabia has condemned the recent Israeli attack against the inhabitants of Ma'rakah village in southern Lebanon. This came in a cable sent by HM King Fahd to Husayn al-Husayni, the speaker of the Lebanese Parliament. In his cable, the Saudi monarch had reaffirmed Saudi Arabia support to the brotherly people of Lebanon in their legitimate defense of their integrity, security and stability. The cable was in reply sent earlier by Husayni to the Saudi monarch on the occasion of the Israeli malicious attack on the inhabitants of Ma'rakah village.

The monarch's cable said this vicious attack and its brutal manner proved to the international community as a whole the ill-intentions of Israel and its disrespect of human values and principles. "The Kingdom when condemning this attack would also like to reaffirm its support of the Lebanese people and their legitimate right to defend their integrity, security and stability and at the same time appeals to the international community to exercise similar support to the Lebanese people and their national resistance," the cable said.

Crown Prince Meets Libyan, Algerian Oil Ministers

LD091352 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1055 GMT 9 Mar 85

[Text] Riyadh, 9 Mar (SPA) — His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, crown prince and deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers and commander of the National Guard, received at the royal court today Belkacem Nabi, Algerian minister of energy and petrochemical industries, and Libyan Oil Secretary Fawzi al-Shakshuki. The meeting was attended by Ahmad Zaki Yamani, minister of petroleum and mineral resources; Tejini Haddam, Algerian ambassador to the Kingdom, and Sulayman Abu Bakr, charge d'affaires of the Libyan Embassy in the Kingdom.

PDRY

People's Council Presidium Mourns Chernenko's Death

GF111636 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 11 Mar 85

[Excerpt] The PDRY Supreme People's Council Presidium has expressed deep sorrow on the death of the prominent international struggler, Konstantin Chernenko, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, and has declared a 3-day official mourning period starting tomorrow. In its statement, the PDRY Supreme People's Council Presidium said that it has received with extreme sorrow the news of the death of the prominent international struggler, Konstantin Chernenko, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium. The Presidium has declared a 3-day official mourning period starting Tuesday 15 March 1985, and has extended condoiences to the members of the USSR Suprme Soviet Presidium, Chernenko's family, and the friendly Soviet people.

Portuguese CP Official Meets With Chairman

GF081811 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 8 Mar 85

[Text] Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee and chairman of the Supreme People's Council Presidium, today received in his office Comrade (Osta Diobato), member of the Political Bureau and member of the Secretariat of the Central Committee of the Portuguese Communist Party. The latter conveyed to him the greetings of Alvaro Kunhal, the secretary general of the Portuguese Communist Party.

During the meeting, the brother secretary general expressed his appreciation for the prestigious role played by the Portuguese Communist Party in the framework of the international liberation movement and its growing role in the political life of the Portuguese people. He also stressed the importance of continuing to develop the struggle relations between the two parties.

The audience was attended by Brothers Abu Bakr Ba Dhib, member of the Political Bureau and secretary of the Central Committee, and 'Ali Isma'il Sayf, deputy secretary of the Central Committee.

Concludes Visit, Issues Statement

GF082020 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 8 Mar 85

[Text] The Portuguese Communist Party expressed its extreme appreciation for and solidarity with the YSP, which is leading a victorious revolutionary experience in the Arab region. This was reported in a press statement issued today at the conclusion of the visit by a delegation representing the Portuguese delegation to Aden, led by Comrade (Osta Diobaso), member of the Political Bureau.

The Portuguese Communist Party saluted the efforts of the party and the government in the PDRY, which are designed to attain Yemeni unity through peaceful and democratic channels, andd their efforts directed toward the Arab liberation movement and the attainment of peace and stability in the region.

The YSP and the Portuguese Communist Party denounced the imperialist and Zionist efforts designed to cause the disintegration of PLO unity and the liquidation of the Palestinian issue. They also expressed their solidarity with the struggle of the Arab Palestinian people to restore their immutable national rights. They also stressed the need to reinforce the Syrian-Palestinian-

Lebanese alliance, which is opposed to imperialism and Zionism and their capitulatory plans. The two parties denounced the imperialist endeavors — particularly U.S. endeavors — to increase the imperialist military presence in a number of the world countries, particularly in the Indian Ocean. They also expressed their full support for the struggle of the people of Lebanon, Nicaragua, El Salvador, southern Africa, Namibia, Mozambique, and Angola, in addition to other people that struggle for their national independence and social progress.

PRC Minister Concludes Visit, Departs 8 Mar

GF081435 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 8 Mar 85

[Excerpt] Comrade Li Ximing, PRC minister of urban and rural construction and environmental protection, and his accompanying delegation left Aden at noon today after a visit to our country that lasted several days.

Installation Protocol With USSR Signed

GF071957 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 7 Mar 85

[Text] At the Ministry of Installations today a protocol was signed from the fourth session of the Yemeni-Soviet regional committee, stemming from the Standing Committee for the economic and technical cooperation between our country and the Soviet Union. The protocol was signed on the Yemeni side by Brother Talib ibn Shamlan, deputy minister of installations, and on Soviet side by Comrade Dimitriy Shpilev, chairman of Tekhnostroyeksport. The protocol included the results of the discussions on bilateral cooperation in the installation projects, including the building of the YSP Central Committee center, the stone-cutting factory in the governorate of Hadramaut, and the training of cadres in the field of installation. The signing of the protocol was attended by Comrade Kazarov, economic adviser at the Soviet Embassy in Aden.

YAR

PRC Construction Minister Arrives in Sanaa

GF081717 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 8 Mar 85

[Excerpt] Mr Li Ximing, PRC minister of urban and rural construction and environmental protection, arrived in Sanaa this afternoon as head of an official delegation making a working visit to our country. His visit will last several days.

Received by Prime Minister

GF091947 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 9 Mar 85

[Text] Brother 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani, prime minister and member of the Standing Committee, today received Li Ximing, PRC minister of urban and rural construction and environmental protection, who is currently visiting our country. He conveyed the greetings of PRC Prime Minister Zhao Ziyang. During the meeting bilateral relations and cooperation between the two countries and ways for their development were discussed. The brother prime minister and member of the Standing Committee asked the PRC minister to convey his greetings to the PRC prime minister.

The meeting was attended by Brother Ahmad al-Luqman, minister of municipalities and housing, and the PRC charge d'affaires in Sanaa.

Joint Cooperation Talks Begin

GF091950 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 9 Mar 85

[Excerpt] The Yemeni-PRC session of talks began tonight at the Ministry of Municipalities and Housing. The Yemeni side was represented by Brother Ahmad Luqman, minister of municipalities and housing, and the Chinese side was represented by Li Ximing, PRC minister of urban and rural construction and environmental protection, who is currently visiting our country.

At the beginning of the session Brother Ahmad Luqman welcomed Li Ximing and the delegation accompanying him and pointed out that the relations between the YAR and the PRC continue to flourish. He also expressed his joy over the visit of the PRC delegation to our country and said that it will strengthen cooperation between the two friendly countries, particularly in fields of municipalities, housing, and environmental protection. The brother minister stated that the identical services of the two ministries of the two countries will foster maximum cooperation and an exchange of expertise and experiences of the two countries.

The PRC minister expressed his joy over visiting our country and his gratitude and appreciation for the warm welcome and generous hospitality shown him. He said that this visit will give him the opportunity to become acquainted with the YAR and its great growth and development during the past years, which in itself displays the government's efforts, under the leadership of President and Secretary General Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, aimed at improving the conditions of the Yemeni people and raise their living conditions. The PRC minister affirmed that these talks will strengthen cooperation between the two countries.

Following that, the two sides discussed ways to develop cooperation between the two ministries in the investment and environment protection fields, as well as an exchange of expertise and training of technical cadres.

The session of talks was attended by Brother Muhammad al-Tayyib, undersecretary of municipalities and housing minister and member of the Standing Committee, and the PRC charge d'affaires to Sanaa.

Joint Cooperation Talks With EEC Conclude

GF081214 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 8 Mar 85

[Excerpt] Economic cooperation talks between our country and the EEC concluded yesterday. Both sides signed minutes of meeting. According to the minutes, the agreement signed between the two sides to develop cooperation in the fields of trade, tourism, sciences, energy, minerals, and training has become valid. The two sides discussed means of furthering cooperation in industrialization and investment.

Mubarak on Discussions With U.S. Officials

NC102031 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2000 GMT 10 Mar 85

[Text] Washington, 10 Mar (MENA) — President Husni Mubarak has said that tomorrow he will begin preliminary political and economic discussions with senior U.S. officials. Answering a question about his anticipation of the U.S. Administration's reaction to the ideas he is bringing to give momentum to the Middle East peace process, the president said: We do not expect an immediate reaction. We are going to talk and attempt to convince, and the results will appear later.

Regarding the results of the recent intensive exchanges between Egyptian officials and the U.S. Administration, President Mubarak said: They were positive. However, he added: The Jordanian-Palestinian agreement is considered a working paper and we must act, otherwise, it will become a dead paper. We must find a way to begin a dialogue between the parties concerned.

The president said that his preliminary discussions tomorrow will deal with all the issues that he will discuss with U.S. President Ronald Reagan and represent political, military, and economic topics, all of which are within the framework of existing bilateral cooperation.

Ghali Leaves for Geneva Conference on Africa 10 Mar

NC101108 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1045 GMT 10 Mar 85

[Excerpt] Cairo, 10 Mar (MENA) — Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, left Cairo for Geneva this morning. He is leading a delegation to an international conference on the situation in Africa, scheduled to begin tomorrow. The meetings will be chaired by UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar.

Ghali Meets Perez De Cuellar

NC102042 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2010 GMT 10 Mar 85

[Text] Geneva, 10 Mar (MENA) — Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, said that he and UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar reviewed the efforts for achieving comprehensive peace in the Middle East. In a statement to MENA, Dr Ghali said that he briefed the UN secretary general on Egyptian diplomatic activity in the Middle East and the Egyptian strategy to confront the economic crisis in Africa. Dr Ghali arrived in Geneva earlier today to head the Egyptian delegation to the 2-day international conference on the emergency situation in Africa, which will begin on Monday. The conference will be chaired by Perez de Cuellar and attended by delegations from 110 states.

Al-Baz Urges U.S. To Exploit Chance for Peace

NC081925 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 8 Mar 85

[Text] Dr Usamah al-Baz, director of the president's office for political affairs, made a statement to a U.S. television network today. He said that President Mubarak will explain the details of his new proposals to the U.S. Administration. He said the time is right for taking action and that the United States must exploit this opportunity to boost the peace process. According to Dr al-Baz, it would not be good for the U.S. Administration to miss this opportunity. He emphasized that by exploiting the situation, Arab-U.S. relations in general would be strengthened. He noted that President Mubarak and a number of other Arab leaders are making additional efforts in urging the U.S. Administration to channel its activity toward advancing the peace process in the Middle East.

Al-Baz Interviewed on Mideast by AL-MAJALLAH

PM081540 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 6-12 Mar 85 pp 15-18

[Interview with Dr Usamah al-Baz, Foreign Ministry First under secretary and chief of the presidential office for political affairs, by unidentified reporter in Cairo — date not given]

[Excerpts] I began the interview with a question to Dr al-Baz on the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement, which has had and is still having an impact on all political circles in the world. I said: Is Egypt a party to the agreement and can it be said that Egypt, Jordan, and the PLO have now adopted a unified position and a joint concept of the Middle East crisis which could be presented to the EC and the United States?

[Al-Baz] It is a Jordanian-Palestinian position. Never before had the Palestinian and Jordanian brothers announced agreement to enter into negotiations. Egypt had already expressed willingness to negotiate provided Jordan and the PLO, in its capacity as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, approve. Egypt is not a party to the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement, but fully supports it and is willing to move on the basis of that agreement within the available dimensions. The agreement is the indispensable first step in any move. For this move to be effective it must be supported by the majority of the Arab states, especially the states which carry some weight in international circles, such as Saudi Arabia, Iraq, the Gulf states, Algeria, and Morocco. If such support for the Jordanian-Palestinian step is secured it would mark a new Arab upsurge in the international arena because the burden and responsibility would then shift from the Arab side to the other sides, particularly the United States and Israel and then the EC. There are other sides whose roles cannot be ignored, such as the Soviet Union, the nonaligned states, and the African states. These forces support the Arab position and can be relied upon to give us more support, but they are not the sides whose attitudes we wish to change. We want to change the attitude of the United States and Israel, and to a lesser degree the EC, which supports Arab demands, but we would like its position to be developed in such a way as to be active, dynamic, and important in being more than just a declaration for the record.

[Reporter] Was the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement actually discussed with the Italian president during his recent visit to Egypt? What was his reaction and the EC's reaction, bearing in mind the Egyptian foreign minister's visit to France and Britain?

[Al-Baz] The visit of the Italian president and his foreign minister to Egypt gave us the opportunity of raising the issue with them

from a new angle, which is that a Jordanian-Palestinian move has begun and that it is the duty of the international community to respond to this Arab initiative. The Italian side was pleased with the move and expressed the conviction that it was a step forward which would enable those interested in the fate, future, and stability of the region to revive their role and work more effectively. The Italian side clearly welcomed the move but it could not take a stand before the EC meets and takes a collective position.

[Reporter] Does that welcome also apply to France and Britain?

[Al-Baz] The initial reaction of the other European states we have contacted shows that they welcome the agreement. Some states preferred to wait until the attitudes of the various sectors of the Palestinian resistance becomes clear. Some were waiting to see what would happen in the PLO Executive Committee and Fatah's Central Committee. I believe that things will move positively now that the PLO Executive Committee and Fatah Central Committee have approved the agreement.

[Reporter] Is Romania playing a special part in the current moves, bearing in mind [Israeli Prime Minister] Peres' recent visit to Romania and Romanian Vice President [as published] Manescu's recent visit to Egypt?

[Al-Baz] Romania is playing a part in this connection because it has close relations with all sides and President Ceausescu was among the first to call for an international peace conference. It is certainly interested in the issue and wants to contribute to a settlement. Although Romania is not one of the states which make up the combination which could produce a settlement, it nonetheless plays an effective part in the contacts and in conveying and proposing ideas about overcoming certain difficulties. We would like to see more than just a limited number of states showing that kind of interest.

[Reporter] After all these activities, are you optimistic about the chances of finding a settlement for the Arab question?

[Al-Baz] I cannot at present say that I am optimistic about finding a settlement. I am optimistic about the Arab situation. The world has always seen the Arab position as deficient, diversified, and based on division. We have not had a unified Arab stand and that has weakened our case in the eyes of many parties. Now it can be said that there is a position which enjoys the support of the majority of the Arabs. It certainly enjoys the support of the Palestinians. We believe that since the agreement was concluded by the legitimate Palestinian institutions nobody should question it so long as the PLO is the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. We all committed ourselves to that at the Rabat conference. So the PLO is entitled to take stands. We should not contradict ourselves. Representation of the Palestinian people is not confined to simply making contacts and holding negotiations. It also includes taking stands, which is the most important aspect of representation. The PLO has taken a stand in signing that agreement with Jordan with the aim of moving, together with Jordan, toward a just and peaceful settlement to end Israel's occupation of the West Bank and the Gaza strip. That is the essence of the agreement. All the other points are secondary.

[Reporter] Sister Syria is noticeably absent from these Arab moves despite the fact that it is one of the confrontation states against Israel. Have any contacts been made with its government with the aim of consultation or coordination regarding these developments?

[Al-Baz] We regret Syria's dissociation from these Arab steps and contacts because Syria is without doubt an important side in any Arab confrontation with other sides, and that includes peaceful confrontation. We regard Syria as an essential Arab side and we would be proud of the role which Syria could play as a fraternal state with which we had special ties for a long time. We believe that the present situation between Egypt and Syria is a temporary situation which has no roots and which does not reflect any strategic differences or contradictions. We believe that fraternal Syria and Egypt have common interests. Syria has at present chosen not to be a party to any Arab contacts or moves toward peace. It has condemned the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement and does not regard it as a sound basis for any move. Furthermore, Syrian-PLO relations are not good and not as we would like them to be. That is why it has not been possible in the circumstances to hold any contacts with Syria in this connection, but the door must be left open to Syria in the future.

[Reporter] Has the Egyptian Government been informed of the results of King Fahd's visit to the United States and the extent of U.S. willingness to respond to the Arab proposals on the settlement of the region's conflict and restoration of the Palestinian people's legitimate rights?

[Al-Baz] I can say that we have received miscellaneous reports about King Fahd's visit, but I cannot say that we have received a complete and comprehensive report. Our information is that King Fahd's visit to Washington helped in drawing U.S. attention to the importance of current developments and the importance of settling the issue. U.S. officials said after the visit that it was a step forward for the United States, but many more steps are needed if the U.S. role is going to be effective and crystal clear in the interest of peace.

[Reporter] Have Egyptian proposals or Egyptian-Jordanian-PLO proposals been prepared for presentation to the U.S. Administration during President Husni Mubarak's coming visit to the United States?

[Al-Baz] The Jordanian-Palestinian agreement was not concluded in order to be submitted solely to the United States. It is an Arab peace concept to be addressed to various circles simultaneously. The United States is without doubt an important and effective side and it is capable of influencing certain parties in the region, particularly Israel. I want to say here that influence and pressure cannot be one-sided despite the fact that the United States is a superpower. Both sides possess means of pressure. The fact remains that the United States cannot be excluded from the peace process. Because of its ties with various sides, its involvement is essential. We hope that it will establish relations with the PLO.

[Reporter] Let us turn to U.S.-Egyptian relations. Is Egypt trying to get more U.S. economic and military aid, equal to the U.S. aid to Israel?

[Al-Baz] We believe that Egypt is entitled to a certain amount of U.S. aid primarily because the U.S. Governemnt, in the person of its president at the time, promised to treat Egypt and Israel equally on the question of aid. Furthermore, the United States should apply one and the same criterion in the region and should take strategic balance into consideration and put out of its mind the so-called superiority notion.

The old U.S. theory, which is mainly based on the assumption that security and stability in the region are possible only if there is Israeli military superiority, is wrong and the United States should discard it. The region's security and stability must be based on a balance of powers which would prevent any side from imposing its will on the other by force of arms or aggression, which only produce instability. Events in Lebanon have disproved the claim that a mighty repressive military power is capable of achieving miracles. Despite Israel's clear military superiority it has failed even to sustain its presence in Lebanon and had finally to leave Lebanon without any military or political gains.

[Reporter] Would it not have been better if an Arab summit conference had been held before the Arab kings and heads of state began visiting the United States? That way it might have been possible to present a unified Arab position to the U.S. Administration.

[Al-Baz] Ideally there should be Arab agreement before any major move is initiated. Such agreement or consensus could be achieved at the highest level through an Arab summit conference or, if that proves impossible, a foreign ministers conference.

The more Arab states that support a particular Arab decision the better, but, very regrettably, in the present Arab circumstances there is no indication that an Arab summit conference is likely to be held in the near future. Even assuming that an Arab summit conference was held it would be very difficult to agree on the major issues such as the Gulf war.

[Reporter] In the light of what you have said about the Gulf war and its detrimental effects on the Arab region, should not the idea of forming an Islamic heads of state delegation to visit Baghdad and Tehran for arbitration be considered, with the proviso that their decision be final?

[Al-Baz] Many Islamic and nonaligned states believe that Iran is not willing to accept any formula for ending the war at present. So long as this impression prevails the international powers are paralyzed and unwilling to make what they think would be a wasted effort. We must continue to make efforts to end the war.

I must draw attention to the significant point that it is wrong to assume that the present Iranian position will continue. All attitudes change. That is why attempts to submit peace initiatives to Iran should continue because Iran might at the right moment listen and respond. On our part we spare no effort in this respect.

A few days ago the imam of Al-Azhar made what we consider to be a completely sound proposal calling for arbitration between the two countries by an Islamic body. We would like to know what the two sides have to say about it.

FRG Defense Minister Holds News Conference

NC101205 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1030 GMT 10 Mar 85

[Excerpts] Cairo, 10 Mar (MENA) -- FRG Defense Minister Dr Manfred Woerner has stressed that Egypt is a factor of security and stability in the Middle East. He also described it as a force of reason in this world and an influential force in this sensitive area. At a news conference held at the Meridien Hotel this morning, the FRG defense minister lauded Egypt-FRG relations in various spheres, saying his visit to Egypt aimed to support these good and fraternal relations.

The FRG defense minister said: I and my colleague Field Marshal Abu Ghazalah discussed the situation in the area, Egypt's relations with its neighbors, Egypt's influential role in the area, and President Mubarak's recent peace initiative.

He added: We also discussed areas of cooperation between the two countries, especially in the field of training. Military cooperation and joint military projects were discussed peripherally and no agreements in this regard were signed.

The FRG defense minister said: I conveyed a message of greetings from Chancellor Helmut Kohl to President Husni Mubarak. He added: Chancellor Kohl shows great interest in the situation in the Middle East, and, naturally, when I return to the FRG, I will brief Chancellor Kohl on the outcome of my talks with President Mubarak and high-ranking Egyptian officials.

The FRG defense minister said: We discussed some spheres in which the Egyptians showed interest, especially military cooperation and the importation of some systems, especially communications and transmission equipment.

He said: I explained to the Egyptian officials the general outlines of the FRG's arms export policy. I do not want to divulge other details in this connection, but I would like to reaffirm that cooperation in arms production was not the core of these talks.

Concerning the Iraqi-Iranian war, the FRG defense minister said: We all have the desire to put an end to the destructive Iraqi-Iranian war, but the chances are very limited.

Regrettably, we have not found any response from Iraq and Iran to the European proposals; otherwise this war would have ended a long time ago. Regrettably, the influence of other states is also very limited.

Departs Cairo 10 Mar

NC102209 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 10 Mar 85

[Excerpt] FRG Defense Minister Dr Manfred Woerner left Cairo today for home at the conclusion of a 5-day visit to Egypt, during which he was received by President Husni Mubarak and Prime Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali.

He also held talks with Field Marshal 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah, deputy prime minister and minister of defense and war production.

Security Authorities To Act Against 'Extremists'
PM081905 Cairo AL-AHALI in Arabic 6 Mar 85 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Security Reports: Foreign Sources Seeking To Incite Sectarian Sedition; Police Strike in Preparation Against Known Religious Extremists"]

[Text] The competent authorities recently received security reports from the branch for combatting religious extremism and foreign activities in State Security and from the public security departments indicating that external sources are seeking to incite sectarian sedition. The reports say that external financing is continuously being provided to extremist Islamic elements previously charged in cases involving Al-Jihad with the aim of encouraging these elements to strike at Christian economic interests in Egypt and to carry out armed raids on Coptic properties.

The reports add that an extremist Coptic organization is also receiving donations and assistance from the same external sources with the aim of setting up working groups to cause damage to mosques in Cairo and the provinces.

The security departments have suggested mounting a police campaign against those described as religious extremists on both sides in order to preempt any attempt at inciting sectarian sedition, but some advisers have proposed that the campaign be postponed so that it will not take place prior to the President's visit to Washington.

The minister of the interior stated a few weeks ago that attempts are being made to export violence to Egypt but that the security organs are in full control of the situation.

Reportage on Military Conflict With Iran

Communique No 1,764

JN081743 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 8 Mar 85

[Communique No 1,764 issued by Armed Forces General Command on 8 March 1985]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

Whenever the Iranian rulers advanced further along the road of crime and aggression, they found the Iraqi heroes lying in wait in order to foil their intrigues and turn their intentions and schemes into disasters. The soil of Iraq will continue to be safeguarded by its men and the citizens' security and stability will continue to be a trust shouldered by the proud cavaliers of Al-Qadisiyah. The aggressors will reap only violent death as this is our only reply to all their crimes against great Iraq.

The following is a roundup of operations for yesterday evening and today:

1. As an expression of Iraq's legitimate right and its ability to destroy the criminal aggressor Iranian regime's military potential, our gigantic Air Force planes continue to deal successive blows to the enemy's collapsing remnants, devastating enemy positions and destroying equipment. Our aircraft carried out 242 combat missions today, after which they returned to base safely and triumphantly, praise be to God.

2. Our forward units continued to engage enemy positions, weapon emplacements, troop concentrations, and engineering efforts in the operational sector east of Basra, inflicting large losses in equipment. The known losses amounted to: four enemy troops killed and others wounded; seven infantry positions, one machinegun emplacement, one observation post, three heavy guns, two excavators, and one bulldozer destroyed; and two hardware stockpiles burned. Fires were seen rising from the targets.

3. Our brave artillery units directed violent, concentrated strikes against enemy remnants and several enemy positions and an engineering effort opposite our formations in the Maysan sector, scoring direct hits and inflicting large losses in men and equipment. Our units managed to destroy five infantry positions, killing the occupants. They also burned three hardware stockpiles. Fires were seen rising from the stockpiles. Two enemy boats and one large excavator were also destroyed, two vehicles and one excavator were burned, and the enemy's engineering effort was obstructed.

Elsewhere in the Maysan sector, one of our brave patrols, supported by a concentrated artillery fire, managed to reach the enemy positions. It opened fire on these positions, inflicting large losses in personnel and equipment and destroying three hardware stockpiles. The patrol returned to its position safely, praise be to God.

4. Using artillery and other weapons, our forward units pounded several enemy positions and troop concentrations in the central sector of the operational theater, killing three, wounding others, and destroying one observation post.

5. Fleeing the hell of the backward Khomeyniite clique, fresh groups of Iranian civilians sought refuge with one of our forward units in the northern sector of the operational theater. They were safely evacuated to the rear.

6. Today the criminal Khomeyniite regime shelled Basra with heavy artillery. We emphasize that this crime will not pass without punishment. We will reply to the Iranian rulers' barbarism until they submissively stop their crimes.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 8 March 1985

Communique No 1,765

JN091741 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1705 GMT 9 Mar 85

[Communique No 1,765 issued by Armed Forces General Command on 9 March 1985]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

Through their effective daily military activities, our valiant Armed Forces exercise Iraq's right to reply to those who covet our land, harbor hatred against our progress, and those who find no sleep as a result of the dignified, secure, and prosperous life our citizens are experiencing under the lofty edifice of the revolution and the canopy of the unique leader. Whenever the frustrated Iranian rulers seek to harm our homeland and people, they find that they face determined men and harsh deterrence by the valiant soldiers of Iraq.

The following is a roundup of activities for yesterday evening and today.

1. Tempted by evil and insisting on prolonging the aggression against our land and the safety and security of our sons, the stupid Iranian rulers have been led to believe that they can confront great and lofty Iraq. Thus, these frustrated men sent some of their planes to Wasit and Maysan Governorates at noon today, targeting populated cities. Our ground defense men intercepted them and shot one of them down, while the other fled without achieving any of their objectives.

2. For the 2d day running, the valiant air hawks have pursued their famous and destructive feats, pouring intensive fire on enemy forces in all operational sectors and inflicting the heaviest losses in life and equipment on them. This is the punishment the enemy deserves for the crime its bloody hands committed against Iraq and its people. The valiant air hawks completed 277 combat missions today, after which they returned safely and triumphantly to base, praise be to God.

3. Our forward units pounded enemy observation posts, troop movements, and weapons positions in the central sector of the battlefield, destroying two observation posts, one machinegun, and one infantry position, and killing one enemy soldier.

4. Dealing successive fierce blows to enemy positions, engineering activities, and mortar positions in the operational sector east of Basra, our valiant artillery men inflicted heavy losses in life and equipment and paralyzed the enemy's engineering activities. In another area of the same sector, one of our patrols captured weapons and military hardware the enemy had left behind in previous battles.

5. The criminal enemy shelled Basra's suburbs with heavy artillery at noon today.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 9 March 1985

Communique No 1,766

JN101806 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1700 GMT 10 Mar 85

[Communique No 1,766 issued by the Iraqi Armed Forces General Command on 10 March 1985]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Iraq, the new, strong, and impregnable, emerged bright today in the consciences of its Air Force eagles and in their outstanding performance and unprecedented courage. These blessed days witness Iraq's final victory and the utter fall of its enemies. The following is a summary of operations for last night and today:

1. In order to straighten things out, to remind the Iranian rulers of their true size, and to express the extent to which Iraq's strong arm can reach, our heroic Air Force eagles raided selected targets in the city of Isfahan. After carefully carrying out their mission, our planes returned safely to base, praise be to God.

2. In order to demonstrate the power of Iraq and the negligibility of the Iranian rulers, our Air Force planes carried out a successful raid on selected targets in the city of Tabriz at 1900 [1600 GMT] today. At the same time, other Iraqi Air Force planes were carrying out a new raid against the city of Isfahan in order to destroy the Iranian rulers' hollow vanity. Our planes returned safe and triumphant after carrying out the two missions, praise be to God.

3. In order to exercise our right to finish off the remnants of aggression, our Air Force eagles continued to pound enemy remnants, positions, and equipment, inflicting harsh punishment for their ill intentions and their insistence on doing evil. Our brave eagles carried out 282 combat missions, and returned safe and triumphant in God's protection.

4. Our giant Air Force continues to tighten its stifling grip on Iran's oil resources. Our Air Force eagles carried out one of their successful raids against a large maritime target near Khark Island at 0430 today. Our planes scored an effective, direct hit, and returned safe and triumphant with God's protection.

5. Our forward units continued to engage enemy units in the central sector. Ten enemy soldiers were killed, others were wounded, and three infantry positions, two machineguns, and one hardware stockpile were destroyed.

6. Our forward units in the Maysan sector directed concentrated fire at enemy positions, inflicting heavy losses and disrupting its engineering units. Our forces also destroyed four infantry positions, killing those manning them; damaged one vehicle; and destroyed one iron tower.

7. With skillful planning, several forward unit formations east of Basra pounded selected enemy targets with heavy artillery, inflicting immense losses in men and equipment. They also destroyed a machinegun position and burned a hardware stockpile.

8. New groups of Iranian civilians sought refuge with our forward units on the frontline. They were safely evacuated to the rear.

9. The criminal enemy resumed its shelling of some civilian areas in the Khanaqin and Basra suburbs with heavy artillery.

10. The frustrated Khomeyniites imagined that they had an Air Force. In an attempt to boast to their people and to cover their shame, they sent four planes in an attempt to commit aggression on the town of Mirgah Sur. Our ground resistance confronted them and forced them to flee, without even allowing them to approach their target.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 10 March 1985.

Iranian Aircraft Downed

JN091220 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1158 GMT 9 Mar 85

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Text] A military spokesman has stated the following:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. We have always warned the Iranian rulers against attacking our peaceful cities and citizens. We have always invited these ignorant men to fight honorably on the battlefield away from purely populated areas. We have explained to them that they are not a match for Iraqi power and cannot harm the Iraqi people's security. However, the Iranian rulers, with their ignorance and recklessness, never benefited from our advice or learned from experience.

They were never careful about saving the lives of their own people. They were never able to realize that they cannot harm Iraq's pride or be a match for Iraq in any field whatsoever.

Therefore, after days of cries, noise, and empty threats, these frustrated rulers sent some of their remaining aircraft to the Wasit and Maysan Governorates. Our ground resistance men intercepted them and shot one of them down. The others fled without carrying out their mission. The wreckage of the aircraft is in the hands of our citizens in the 'Ali al-Gharbi area.

We tell the Iranian rulers: You have perpetrated enough crimes. You have brought enough disasters on your own people. You have made enough pretentious claims that do not befit you. The only way open for you is to stop the policy of aggression, which has brought disasters on Iran. Otherwise, if you repeat

your deeds, we will [repeat]. We have in store for you more painful [weapons] than you have seen so far. Success comes from God.

[Dated] 9 March 1985

All Aircraft Return Safely

JN101119 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1112 GMT 10 Mar 85

[Text] Baghdad, 10 Mar (INA) — An authorized Iraqi military spokesman has denied Iran's claim that an Iraqi plane was downed today.

In a statement to INA, the spokesman said that all the Iraqi aircraft returned safely to base after carrying out their missions with complete success.

Iranian Plane Hits Al-Fadiliyah

JN111148 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1138 GMT 11 Mar 85

[Text] Baghdad, 11 Mar (INA) — An Iranian plane infiltrated the Iraqi-Iranian border this morning and struck an area 30 km from the Iraqi capital.

INA has learned from a military source that the Iranian plane infiltrated the central sector on the eastern border and was intercepted by Iraqi fighter aircraft, which forced it to strike the Al-Fadiliyah area on the Baghdad-Diyala road 30 km from Baghdad.

The source said that as a result of this incident three children were wounded, after which the Iranian plane fled.

AFP: Baghdad Bombed

NC110704 Paris AFP in English 0636 GMT 11 Mar 85

[Text] Tehran, March 11 (AFP) — The Iranian Air Force bombed several "strategic points" in Baghdad, the Iraqi capital, the official IRNA news agency reported today.

[In Baghdad, anti-aircraft guns opened up for about 10 minutes from the eastern suburbs of the city while air raid sirens sounded, but no planes could be seen flying over the central part of the capital.]

The Iranian raid came in the wake of yesterday's bombing by Iraqi planes of the Iranian cities of Tabriz and Isfahan.

Sunday's bombing brought the death toll in Iran to more than 400 since both sides began attacking each other's cities last Monday, ending a U.N.-sponsored truce concluded last June to spare civilian targets in the war, which began in September 1980.

Shelling of Basra Continues

JN100746 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0725 GMT 10 Mar 85

[Text] Baghdad, 10 Mar (INA) - An INA correspondent in Basra has said that the Iranian artillery has been shelling Basra intensively since 2000 [1700 GMT] yesterday. He added that the shelling was continuing at 1000 today and that several houses and civilian establishments have been demolished.

Th newspaper *AL-JUMHURIYAH* says that 150 heavy artillery shells fell on Basra yesterday, hitting residential areas, squares, and schools, and leading to the martyrdom and injury of several citizens. The civil defense, first aid officials, traffic police, emergency police, the Popular Army, and the popular organizations are actively transporting the wounded to hospitals and rescuing the citizens whose houses collapsed on them as a result of the Iranian bombardment.

Basra Shelled 11 Mar

JN110805 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0757 GMT 11 Mar 85

[Text] Baghdad, 11 Mar (INA) — The INA correspondent in Basra reports that the Iranian shelling of Basra has continued since yesterday evening. The correspondent says that Iranian heavy artillery shells fell on residential quarters in Basra this morning. The Iranian shelling caused human and material losses.

Officials Tour Basra Governorate

JN081711 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1655 GMT 8 Mar 85

[Text] Basra, 8 Mar (INA) — 'Abd al-Ghani 'Abd al-Ghafur, Arab Socialist Ba'th Party Regional Command member, and senior Iraqi officials have toured various parts of Basra Governorate. The Regional Command member acquainted himself with the city's fortifications and the citizens' precuations against the enemy shelling that included various parts of Basra Governorate today and the day before yesterday.

The party official met with the national defense teams of the General Federation of Iraqi Youth and officials in charge of party and popular organizations. He appreciated the efforts they exert in cooperation with various official sides and organs to serve citizens.

Basra Citizens' Morale High

JN091020 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0655 GMT 9 Mar 85

[Text] Basra, southern Iraq, 9 Mar (INA) — Despite the Iranian shelling of Basra, some families in the city celebrated their sons' weddings, challenging the Iranian rulers' evil spirit. 'Abd al-Ghani 'Abd al-Ghafur, member of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party Regional Command, distributed gifts to these families during a tour of the city last night.

'Abd al-Ghani was then briefed on the fortifications and the civil defense activities as well as the progress of health and human services provided to the citizens during the third consecutive day of the heavy Iranian artillery shelling.

In another development, the Iraqi papers published today showed pictures of the aftermath of the Iranian shelling and interviewed citizens who were injured by the shelling. The papers noted that the shelling killed and injured a number of citizens; demolished

a number of houses, places of worship, and stores; and destroyed a number of vehicles. The papers asserted that the Basra citizens were very quiet during the Iranian shelling. [as received]

The Iraqi papers interviewed the citizens who were injured by shrapnel from Iranian shells and who are in Basra hospitals. They all asserted that their morale is high, and pointed out that the shelling shows the Iranian military failure in confronting the Iraqi forces on the battle fronts.

UN Head Asks for End To Bombing Civilians

JN100717 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0640 GMT 10 Mar 85

[Text] United Nations, 10 Mar (INA) — UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar has suggested that tomorrow, Monday, be a deadline for halting the bombardment of Iraqi and Iranian civilian targets. This came in two messages he sent to President Saddam Husayn and Iranian President Khamene'i.

In his message, which he sent before his departure for Geneva last night following an official 3-day visit to Canada, the secretary general stressed the need to stop attacks on innocent civilians in the two countries. Perez de Cuellar appealed to the two sides to abide by the pledge they made to the secretary general on 12 June 1984 regarding their restraint in shelling residential areas.

The secretary general suggested 2359 GMT, [10 March], that is 0300 on Monday, as a deadline to stop military actions against purely civilian centers.

The secretary general will arrive in Geneva later today to discuss the subject of POW's in Iraq and Iran with the Internatioanl Commmittee of the Red Cross, whose headquarters is in Geneva.

Tariq 'Aziz Replies

JN102147 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 2000 GMT 10 Mar 85

[Text] Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has sent Iraq's reply to UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar's letter on refraining from hitting towns and cities that are not used as centers for military concentrations. The following is the text of the reply:

Your Excellency, we received your letter dated 9 March 1985 and addressed to the president of the republic. At the president's instructions, I would like to explain my government's views on it to you.

On 9 June 1984 , when you appealed to Iraq and Iran to stop intentional strikes at purely residential areas, Iraq immediately accepted your appeal with a 10 June 1984 letter from the president of the republic. In this letter, as well as in the two letters I sent to you on 11 and 17 June 1984, we affirmed that in order to stop hitting cities and villages it is necessary to ascertain that the Iranian border villages and towns are not used as centers of Iranian military concentrations. Regrettably, however, this practical, important demand was ignored. When you appointed a mission to investigate violations of the agreement, we asked the UN General Secretariat to place observers in all sectors of the operational theater so that monitoring operations would be immediate and effective. However, the Iranian side initially refused to allow the mission to enter Iran, and then agreed to its presence only in Tehran. Thus, you maintained the mission only in Baghdad.

It was clear to us that the Iranian rulers' insistence on keeping the mission away from the operational theater was aimed at avoiding UN monitoring of the use of Iranian border towns and villages as centers for [military] concentrations, and for violating the agreement at will and according to the Iranian rulers' political and military motives, which follow their whims and desires and are in line with the contradictions and struggles among them. In point of fact, our surveys showed that the Iranian cities that I mentioned in my 27 June 1984 letter to you were used as centers of military concentrations. With this letter we attached a list of the names of the Iranian units that were stationed in Abadan, Al-Muhammarah [Khorramshahr], Khosrowabad, Ahvaz, Hoveyzeh, Basatin, and Andimeshk.

Since then, many military attacks on Iraqi borders have taken place: on 20 october 1984, on 1 February 1985, and on 2 and 3 March 1985. Several violations of the agreement occurred during these months. The weak supervision and Iran's arbitrary interpretation of the agreement caused these violations. The Iranian officials, under the pretext of incidents that occurred during military operations and which the provisions of the agreement did not cover, did not stop their threats to shell our cities during this past period. Worth mentioning here are the Iranian president's threats on 8 Febraury 1985.

This month, when the UN Security Council was discussing a very important, sensitive issue of the war — namely, the suffering of dozens of thousands of POW's in a UN attempt to solve their tragedy — the Iranian regime issued an ultimatum on shelling Basra, and carried out its threats on 5 march 1985. A number of civilians were martyred or injured, and their houses and personal property were destroyed.

As I explained to you in my 6 March 1985 message, the pretexts that the Iranian regime has used to commit this crime are baseless. The Iraqi shelling that took place on 4 March 1985 was aimed at a factory in the outskirts of the city of Ahvaz. This target is not included in the 12 June 1984 agreement. Instead of following the measures that had been agreed on with you in order to confirm such incidents and instead of asking the UN mission to visit the shelled area, the Iranian regime made its aforementioned warning and premeditatedly shelled the city of Basra.

In accordance with the mentioned measures and before retaliating to this premeditated crime, we asked the UN mission in Baghdad to go to Basra to investigate the shelling. However, the Iranian regime continued to violate these measures. It did not agree to give your mission the required security for carrying out its tasks.

In light of this, it is clear that the Iranian regime has deliberately violated the 12 June 1984 agreement and its related measures. It was also clear to the concerned observers that the premeditated

shelling of Basra on 5 March 1985 was aimed at diverting attention from the UN Security Council's discussion of the POW's issue and at disrupting the council's efforts to reach an effective humanitarian solution to their suffering. Thus, instead of positively contributing to solving this humanitarian issue, the Iranian regime has perpetrated new crimes against Iraqi civilians and has caused further bloodshed.

Your Excellency Mr Secretary General, I would like to confirm to you that Iraq had proposed the convocation of a special meeting to avoid the shelling of cities and villages. The president of the Republic of Iraq announced this in June 1983. This was also included in UN Security Council Resolution 540, which Iraq has agreed to and Iran has rejected. Iraq was also sincerely committed to the 12 June 1984 agreement. Moreover, Iraq has also cooperated with you and the UN Security Council in order to reach a comprehenesive solution to the conflict, and to achieve solutions to the human problems resulting from the conflict. On the contrary, the Iranian regime has not showed any form of cooperation, and has continued to accuse the UN Security Council and the United Nations. This regime has also continued to deal with the sensitive human issues in accordance with opportunist political objectives and cheap slogans.

Therefore, out of our certain desire to respond to your appeal to avoid the civilian catastrophes of war, and out of our concern to not escalate the situation, we cannot leave matters in an ambiguous uncontrolled state, nor can we allow violations. We return to the starting point, especially since the Iranian regime insists on continuing the war. It is escalating war operations when it wants and it the areas it chooses. Our confirmed information indicates that this regime is currently mobilizing large forces in the border areas in order to carry out a new aggression against Iraqi territory.

We believe that the feasible solution to this issue, and all humanitarian issues that result from the conflict, lies in you holding direct contacts with authorized representatives from the two sides, in order to establish agreed and clear foundations, rules, and guarantees for avoding premeditated shelling of purely residential areas, and to tackle other issues. This will enable us to completely guarantee the safety of citizens in our country, keep them away from the Tehran rulers' whims to threaten their lives and security whenever they want, and guarantee sound treatment of other humanitarian issues. I express my readiness to immediately leave for New York to hold direct contacts with you in this regard. We also welcome your visit to Iraq, if you wish to do so. Pease accept our deep appreciation.

[Signed] Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister of the Republic of Iraq.

Baghdad, 10 March 1985.

Tariq 'Aziz Message to UN Head on POW Exchange

JN092149 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 9 Mar 85

[Text] Tariq 'Aziz, foreign minister and deputy prime minister, has explained Iraq's stand toward the proposals included in UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar's message on the exchange of POW's.

The following is the text of the foreign minister's message:

Your Excellency, I have received your message dated 7 March 1985. I highly appreciate your concern about the issue of the POW's that we requested be discussed by the UN Security Council.

Proceeding from Iraq's firm stand which we expressed during the Security Council session on 5 March 1985 — a stand that calls for a final and comprehensive solution to the POW's sufferings whithout any political maneuvers and objectives — I would like to point to you my government's stand toward the proposals included in your aforementioned message:

1. The Iraqi Government believes that an exchange of POW's should be comprehensive and complete and without exceptions.

2. The Iraqi Government believes that an exchange can be achieved through one of the following methods:

a. The exchange of POW's should take place on a relative basis in accordance with the number of POW's in the two states and during a period not to exceed 6 months, and during which a comprehensive exchange should take place.

b. The exchange should took place by stages during a maximum period of 6 months as follows:

The first stage during which the exchange of POW patients, the handicapped, the aged, and children will take place.

The second stage, during which the exchange of POW's who have spent 2 years or more in captivity will take place.

The third stage, during which all remaining POW's will be exchanged.

3. Iraq welcomes the UN Secretary General's playing an effective role in this process through firm cooperation with the International Committee for the Red Cros [ICRC]. As for the protecting states, Iraq, out of its commitment to the Geneva conventions, does not object to this idea. However, it believes that this idea should be discussed at a later time when it will be very necessary from the practical point of view. Please accept my deep respect.

[Signed] Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, the Iraqi Republic, 9 March 1985

Tariq 'Aziz received a message from UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar this evening.

In his message the UN secretary general asked for Iraq's conditions to exchange POW's. The UN secretary general added that after the reply he will contact the ICRC to prepare effective arrangements including the process of exchange.

King Husayn Receives Somali Envoy, Message

JN091340 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 9 Mar 85

[Text] Amman — His Majesty King Husayn received Mohamed Ali Hamed, Somali minister of state for foreign affairs, at the Royal Hashemite Court this afternoon. Hamed conveyed to his majesty a message from His Excellency Somali President Mohamed Siad Barre dealing with Arab relations in general and bilateral relations in particular, as well as the latest developments in the Arab arena.

TIMES Interviews Somali Minister

JN100910 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 10 Mar 85 p 2

[By Sa'ad G. Hattar, *JORDAN TIMES* staff reporter]

[Text] Amman — Somalia considers the Feb. 11 agreement between Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) on a formula for joint action towards settling the Palestinian problem as a "positive step towards achieving a just and durable peace in the Middle East," a senior Somali minister said Saturday.

Minister of State for Foreign Affaris Mohamed Ali Hamed who arrived here Thursday on an official visit during which he delivered a message to His Majesty King Husayn from Somali President Mohammed Siad Barre, told the *JORDAN TIMES* that Somalia, a member of the Arab League, supports "all efforts for unifying Arab ranks to confront the challenges facing the Arab Nation."

President Siad Barre's message to King Husayn also dealt with Somali-Jordanian relations and Arab and international issues, Mr. Hamed said.

While Somalia supports the call for an international conference on the Middle East, as outlined in the Jordan-PLO accord, it also believes that the success of such a conference depends on the United States and the Soviet Union, Mr. Hamid said.

"The superpowers should undertake guarantees that they would break the stalemate in efforts for peace in the Middle East and bring forth tangible solutions for a just peace in the region," the Somali minister said. "In the past we have seen that they do not agree on anything and we do not want a repetition of such a deadlock in the envisaged conference," he explained.

"It has been rare that the two superpowers have agreed on any common issue since both are after their own interests in the region," he added. "Therefore, it is imperative that they, before sitting down for an international conference, commit themselves to solving the Middle East problem," he added.

Turning to the 53-month-old Iran-Iraq war, which he described as "senseless and destructive" and a "crucial issue for the Arab world," Mr. Hamed said Somalia is "committed to all Arab summit resolutions which call for a peaceful end to the Gulf conflict."

In reply to a question on Jordanian-Somali trade and economic relations, Mr. Hamed said he was due to meet Minister of Trade and Industry Jawad al-'Anani to discuss the "framework for a bilateral agreement" to initiate trade between the two countries.

He explained that Somalia was seeking to buy Jordanian cement, industrial products and minerals in exchange for Somali products, most notably its vast animal wealth, fish and agricultural products.

King Husayn Invited To Visit Spain in Late March

JN091343 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 9 Mar 85

[Text] A responsible source at the Royal Hashemite Court has announced that His Majesty King Husayn and Her Majesty Queen Nur will make an official visit to Spain that will last 3 days during the last week of March at the invitation of His Majesty King Juan Carlos, monarch of the Spanish kingdom, and his wife, Her Majesty Queen Sofia.

Reportage on Visit by Austrian Foreign Minister

Arrives in Amman

JN101928 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 10 Mar 85

[Text] Amman — Austrian Minister of Foreign Affairs Leopold Gratz arrived in Amman this evening on a visit to Jordan that will last several days. He will hold talks with Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri and a number of officials on the latest developments in the Middle East and bilateral relations. He was received at the airport by Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri and a number of senior officials.

Comments on PLO Agreement

JN102042 Amman Television Service in English 2000 GMT 10 Mar 85

[Excerpts] Austrian Foreign Minister Leopold Gratz arrived in Amman today for a 4-day visit to Jordan, during which he will hold talks with Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri and senior officials. Speaking to reporters on arrival at the airport, the Austrian foreign minister said: The recent accord between Jordan and the PLO on a joint approach to Middle East peace offered a chance for a settlement in the region.

Speaks at Banquet

JN110650 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 11 Mar 85

[Text] Amman — Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri has said that Jordan seeks to coordinate its efforts with all those who are committed to the Middle East cause, particularly fraternal Arabs and the PLO. In a speech delivered last night at a banquet he held in honor of Austrian Foreign Minister Leopold Gratz, Al-Masri said: The formula for joint action agreed upon by the

Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and the PLO is a sincere effort based on land in exchange for peace.

Al-Masri asserted that Jordan has spared no effort to bring peace prospects closer. He said: We welcomed all peace efforts, particularly UN efforts, represented mainly in Resolutions 242 and 338, which were agreed on by the warring countries in the region. We called for implementing these two resolutions. We reiterate our conviction that Resolution 242 still constitutes the sound basis for a just and peaceful solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict through guaranteeing the Palestinian people's legitimate rights and the right of all countries in the region to live within peaceful and recognized borders.

In his reply to Tahir al-Masri's speech, Leopold Gratz condemned the occupation of other countries' territories and called for the withdrawal of Israeli forces from the Arab lands occupied in 1967. He asserted that Austria recognizes the Palestinian people's legitimate rights, including their right to self-determination in their homeland.

Gratz added that the PLO, in its capacity as the legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, must participate in all efforts to find a peaceful solution to the Palestine cause. He said: We asked Israel to review its policy and to stop building settlements in the occupied Arab territory.

Gratz said: We hope the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement will prepare the path for a solution accepted by all peoples who have good intentions.

Parliamentary Officials Receive Iraqi Ambassador
JN101436 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 10 Mar 85

[Text] Amman — Senate President Ahmad al-Lawzi received Iraqi Ambassador in Amman Ibrahim Shuja' Sultan today. The talks dealt with the Iranian shelling of Basra and other Iraqi cities, the Iranian responsibility for escalating the area of the war, and its subsequent dangerous effects on the security of the Arab nation and the entire region. Lower House Speaker 'Akif al-Fayiz and the Iraqi ambassador discussed bilateral and parliamentary relations between Jordan and fraternal Iraq today.

PNC Speaker Arrives in Amman, Makes Statement
JN090919 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 9 Mar 85 pp 1, 14

[Text] Amman — *SAWT AL-SHA'B* — PNC Speaker 'Abd al-Hamid al-Sa'ih returned to Amman yesterday after a 4-day visit to Qatar. In a statement to *SAWT AL-SHA'B*, his eminence said that during his visit to Qatar he held talks with Qatari Amir Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Thani, who showed an understanding of the current circumstances of the Palestine cause and expressed his support for the Palestine cause and the Palestinian people.

His eminence praised Qatar's stand and support for the Palestinian people's struggle to liberate our territory and regain the usurped rights, particularly the Palestinian people's legitimate rights.

The PNC speaker said that he held talks with a number of senior officials on the Arab situation in general and the Palestinian situation in particular.

He also discussed with Advisory Council Speaker 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Ghanim aspects of cooperation between the PNC and the Advisory Council.

On his visit to Aden and the APU meetings, the PNC speaker praised the resolutions adopted by the Arab parliamentarians in support of the Palestine cause and the PLO.

His eminence pointed out that he did not present to the conference the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement.

He said that he explained to members of Arab parliamentary delegations the circumstances, background, and objectives of the agreement in the service of the Palestine cause on all levels.

On the formation of a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation to visit Moscow, his eminence said: Contacts are being held to explain the agreement to our friends in the USSR.

Industry Minister on Energy, Oil Prospects
JN101522 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1415 GMT 10 Mar 85

[Text] Amman, 10 Mar (PETRA) — Dr Jawad al-'Anani, minister of industry and trade, has said that the only solution to the energy problem in Jordan is to find oil, because it is the basic alternative and because Jordanian oil consumption costs about $640 million annually.

In a statement to *AL-YARMUK* magazine, he added that the oil from the already discovered wells in the Al-Azraq area is being sold to the Jordanian oil refinery, and that the profits are used to expand the digging operations. He said that three large oil diggers will be provided for this purpose, adding that studies have indicated the presence of large quantities of oil in Jordan.

Al-Jumayyil Receives Visiting French General

NC081513 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 8 Mar 85

[Text] President Amin al-Jumayyil received General Rene Imbot, chief of staff of the French ground forces, at 1515 today. He was accompanied by French Ambassador Ferdinand Wibaux and Military Attache Colonel (Cottier). The meetings lasted until 1545 and talks centered on the French forces' role within UNIFIL, the status of French observers in Beirut, and the difficulties they face in the field.

Reportage on Talks With Syrian Vice President

Khaddam Arrives

NC090920 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0905 GMT 9 Mar 85

[Excerpt] Talks between President Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil, Prime Minister Rashid Karami, and Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, who arrived in Bikfayya at 1030, began 20 minutes ago. The Syrian vice president is accompanied by Minister Walid Junblatt. Prime Minister Karami, accompanied by Nabih Birri, minister of state for south Lebanon and reconstruction affairs, arrived in Bikfayya before Khaddam's arrival.

First Round Ends

NC091221 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 9 Mar 85

[Text] The first round of Lebanese-Syrian talks ended at 1330. The talks were held at the residence of President Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil in Bikfayya. As is known, Israel is lying in wait to torpedo every reconciliatory effort through a series of explosions and crimes. Our correspondent has told us that the Bikfayya talks ended in a positive and reconciliatory atmosphere.

Legislative Decrees Discussed

NC092044 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 9 Mar 85

[Text] The third round of talks in Bikfayya ended at 2100 today. The session was attended by President Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil, Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, Prime Minister Rashid Karami, and Ministers Nabih Birri and Walid Junblatt. The fourth round of talks will begin at 2200, following a dinner hosted by President al-Jumayyil in honor of Vice President Khaddam. Among those present at the banquet are: Prime Minister Karami; Ministers Birri and Junblatt; former Ministers Marwan Hamadah, Khalid Junblatt, and Sami Yunis; Michel Samahah, chairman of the Lebanese Television Company's Board of Directors; Akram Shuhayyib; Dr 'Isam Nu'man; and attorney Fu'ad Shbaqli.

We have learned that discussion of the legislative decrees was completed during the third session and that the matter will be addressed at the Cabinet's emergency meeting, which is expected to begin at 1000 tomorrow. The fourth round of talks will be devoted to a discussion of political and security reforms, their impact on the economic situation, and the practical measures that should be taken.

Birri Comments on Talks

NC100655 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 10 Mar 85

[Text] The Lebanese-Syrian talks will resume in Bikfayya at 1000 today. The Cabinet is also expected to hold an extraordinary session devoted to discussing the legislative decrees. The fourth round of talks ended at 2330 last night. Prime Minister Rashid Karami then went to Beirut for the night while Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam and Ministers Nabih Birri and Walid Junblatt went to the Maryland Hotel. None of the participants made statements at the end of this last round, except for Minister Birri who briefly said: We have decided not to differ.

Informed sources said that discussions during the last round were devoted to political reform issues, the foremost being an increase in the number of deputies. It was also learned that discussion of the legislative decrees was completed during the third session of talks. This topic will be addressed at the Cabinet's extraordinary session, which is expected to be held this morning.

Talks Resume

NC100922 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0909 GMT 10 Mar 85

[Excerpt] The fourth [as heard] round of Lebanese-Syrian talks began at the Cabinet meeting hall in Bikfayya's Presidential Palace at 1015 today. The meeting is being attended by President Amin al-Jumayyil, Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, Prime Minister Rashid Karami, and Ministers Nabih Birri and Walid Junblatt.

Cabinet Asked To Convene

NC101231 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 10 Mar 85

[Text] The Cabinet has been requested to hold an emergency session at the Presidential Palace in Bikfayya at 1530 today. The Military Council has also been asked to meet at 1400. Certain measures on the Bikfayya meetings will be released this afternoon. This was announced by Minister Walid Junblatt at the conclusion of the fourth round of talks at 1245. The fifth round will begin at 1400. Minister Dr Salim al-Huss has been summoned to attend this session. It has been learned that Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam will leave Bikfayya immediately after the fifth round of talks.

It has also been learned that an in-depth discussion was held during the fourth round. A statement will be issued on the Bikfayya meetings this afternoon. At the end of the fourth session, Minister Walid Junblatt made a statement denouncing the Bi'r al-'Abd crime and said that a series of measures will be announced this afternoon. He added that Israel and its agents

will never be able to frustrate the determination of this faithful national people, for these people are much stronger than colonialism. Minister Junblatt said: I have received a telephone call from Shaykh Sa'id Sha'ban [leader of the Islamic Unification Movement] asking me not to cede the rights of the national Lebanese people. Junblatt added that Sha'ban had asked him to convey his greetings to Prime Minister Karami. Junblatt expressed surprise at the absence of Minister al-Huss from the Bikfayya meetings, however, he said that the minister will attend the fifth round.

Al-Huss Joins 5th Round

NC101356 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 10 Mar 85

[Excerpt] The fifth round of talks at the presidential summer residence in Bikfayya was held at 1400 today. Meanwhile, the Cabinet has been asked to convene in an emergency session at 1530 to discuss the decisive measures that are expected to be announced at the conclusion of these 2-day talks. The measures involve political reforms and the security and economic situations. Our correspondent has informed us that Dr Salim al-Huss, minister of labor and education, has joined the fifth round of talks. We have also been told that Army Commander General Michel 'Awn and the members of the Military Council arrived at the presidential summer residence in Bikfayya at 1350 to join the conferees. At the conclusion of the fifth round of talks Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam will leave for Damascus after various Lebanese issues, including the national unity government's policy statement, have been discussed in his presence.

Cabinet Session Canceled

NC101404 (Clandestine) Voice of Arab Lebanon in Arabic 1338 GMT 10 Mar 85

[Text] The emergency Cabinet session, which was scheduled to be held at the presidential summer residence in Bikfayya, has been canceled due to the absence of Ministers Sham'un, Al-Huss, 'Usayran, and Skaf. Instead, an expanded meeting, which has been in progress in Bikfayya since 1400, will continue among President Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil, Prime Minister Rashid Karami, Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, and Ministers Birri and Junblatt. The entire Military Council also joined the meeting at 1400 after its members were summoned to Bikfayya. Sources at the meeting affirm that it will continue until 1600, at which time Khaddam will leave for Damascus. He is expected to return at the beginning of next week to continue discussing matters on the agenda. The sources said that the Cabinet will most likely hold an emergency session tomorrow, Monday, in the event all ministers will be able to participate.

Bikfayya Talks End

NC101558 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 10 Mar 85

[Text] The fifth and final round of Lebanese-Syrian talks between President Amin al-Jumayyil and Syrian President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam ended at 1545 today. Prime Minister Rashid Karami and Ministers Nabih Birri and Walid Junblatt participated in the talks. It has been learned that the talks were held in a positive and encouraging atmosphere. The results of the talks will soon be evident with regard to the solution of the existing problems and the achievement of a breakthrough in the political and security domains. It has also been learned that an agreement was reached on certain matters that will give momentum to the process of liberation, salvation, and reform. 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam left Bikfayya for Damascus this afternoon. He will return to Bikfayya on Saturday [16 March] to resume the talks.

Junblatt To Continue Boycotting Government Meetings

LD092351 Kuwait KUNA in English 1748 GMT 9 Mar 85

[Text] Rabat, March 9 (KUNA) — The leader of the Lebanese Progressive Socialist Party (PSP) Walid Junblatt was quoted as saying in an interview published here Saturday that he will continue boycotting the Lebanese Government meetings "because there are people whom he does not want to see."

Junblatt told *AL-ALAM* newspaper that there is a mountain of political ice "separating him and Lebanese President Amin al-Jumayyil, and he sees no possibility that this mountain would soon melt."

Junblatt called for prosecuting all Lebanese officials, including himself, "on condition that the Lebanese Army becomes a real army and not a gang that serves a certain party and a certain family."

The PSP leader accused the Lebanese official authorities of adopting a stance opposed to the Lebanese national resistance and described the current applause given to the national resistance by the Lebanese officials as "artificial and of well-known motives."

Answering a question on reports claiming that Palestinian forces had returned back to Beirut, Junblatt said he had no information to that effect, but said "the Palestinians had and are still fighting alongside our forces, and I am very much obliged for them."

He admitted that his militias receive arms from Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi through Syria. Junblatt concluded calling for a charter based on joint approach for a democratic Lebanon and not on alliance between Lebanese sects and on a real social and economic equilibrium, and stressed that peace in Lebanon is unlikely as long as the authority is with the Phalangists who are depending on Israel and the U.S. in their political approach.

Reportage on Blast Near Home of Hezbollah Leader

75 Casualties Reported

NC081549 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1529 GMT 8 Mar 85

[Text] According to confirmed reports, the explosive charge that went off in the southern suburb at 1700 exploded near the home

of Hezbollah Party leader Shaykh Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah. A large number of dead and wounded have been taken to various hospitals. A security cordon has been imposed around the scene of the blast. Rescue squads are now giving first aid to the wounded. According to preliminary reports, 75 persons were killed or wounded in the explosion near the home of Shaykh Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah. Shaykh Fadlallah's fate is not yet known. Ambulances are now taking the wounded to various hospitals. A request has been made to bring large cranes to the scene to remove the rubble. Gunmen have imposed a security cordon around the site of the blast.

Speaker Accuses Israel

NC081955 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1915 GMT 8 Mar 85

[Text] Commenting on the explosion, Chamber of Deputies Speaker Husayn al-Husayni said: At a time when our people have not yet forgotten Israel's crime in Ma'rakah, and at a time when the Security Council continues to debate Lebanon's complaint against Israel, Israel persists in committing additional barbaric crimes. It is exploding booby-trapped cars in Bi'r al-'Abd; its targets are innocent civilians. This clearly shows that Israel is waging a war of genocide against the Lebanese people. It makes no distinction in this war between women, children, and the old. While expressing our deep sorrow over this catastrophe, we are confident that it will not benefit Israel and will not allow it to remain on a single inch of our pure soil. It is this soil which brought forth the Lebanese national resistance forces from among our proud people. It is they who are defending our dignity, sovereignty, and independence, and paying a heavy price for it.

Al-Huss Blames Israel

NC082108 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 8 Mar 85

[Text] Dr Salim al-Huss, education and labor minister, has condemned the car bomb explosion in Bi'r al-'Abd. He said: This horrible crime has come as a deep shock to us. Anyone who commits such a massacre is actually directing his action at the people of this afflicted country. We have no doubt that Israel is behind this ugly crime. The one who commits crimes in the south on a daily basis, demolishing homes over the heads of their owners and blowing up places of worship, will not hesitate to repeat his actions in a densely populated section of Beirut and its suburb. Dr al-Huss added: It is time for the aggressor to realize that no matter how far he goes in his crimes, he will never be able to harm our people's will or faith. While asking God Almighty to overwhelm the victims with his kind mercy, we congratulate Ulema Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah on his escape from this treacherous incident.

Hezbollah Leader Makes Statement

NC090740 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 0530 GMT 9 Mar 85

[Excerpts] Once again the suspect bodies have resorted to their dirty game, the game of wholesale murder. Again they have sent gifts in the form of booby-trapped cars, thus writing a new page in the annals of their black crimes. At 1700 yesterday, a booby-trapped car packed with 150 kg of highly explosive TNT exploded near the home of scholar Shaykh Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah in the Bir al-'Abid area of Beirut's southern suburb. The explosion killed 50 people and wounded 200 others, who were taken to hospitals in west Beirut. Meanwhile, Phalangist information media released malicious rumors about the fate of scholar Shaykh Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah. These malicious rumors, however, were exposed following the exclusive statement which scholar Fadlallah made to the Voice of the Mountain Radio. Here is a recording of his statement:

[Begin Fadlallah recording] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. In living the horror of this disaster and massacre, which carries the hallmarks of its perpetrators — namely, Israel and its local allies — we tell those who sent this bomb: The message has arrived and we understand all its implications. We know that we will continue to defend human freedom in Lebanon and the area. All those who are playing with fire and all those who have created a human tragedy in Lebanon will realize that their hands will be burned by this fire sooner or later. We say that we will not stop. We will continue to support all free men, all believers, and all Muslim strugglers until Israel leaves Lebanon and the area and until all Israel's local allies are defeated.

We feel the magnitude of this catastrophe, but it will not stop or destroy us. At the same time, I thank all my brothers who have expressed their feelings and sentiments toward me. I tell them that I will remain with them in the arena as a defender of freedom. We will continue to confront all the forces of oppression, imperialism, and Zionism at home and abroad. They do not scare us with death. We are from a home whose leader has said: Death for us is a habit and we seek martyrdom for the sake of God. [end recording]

Casualty Figures Revised

NC092105 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 9 Mar 85

[Text] Civil defense and first-aid teams continue to remove the remains of the Al-Sanawbarah building and to search for victims trapped under the rubble. Sources in the security forces report that three bodies were pulled out today, bringing the number of victims to 66 dead and 199 wounded.

Reportage on 'Suicide Operation' Against Israelis

Israeli Convoy Attacked

NC101539 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1518 GMT 10 Mar 85

[Text] An unidentified person carried out a suicide operation at 1500 today against the Israeli forces in Al-Khiyam-Bab al-Tinniyah in the south. According to preliminary reports received from the south a little while ago, the operation was targeted against an Israeli convoy as it was passing on Al-Khiyam road. The unidentified person, who died immediately, was in his booby-

trapped car when he carried out the operation and rammed the Israeli convoy. Since the incident took place, the Israeli forces have been carrying out raiding, searching, and encircling operations.

Resistance Claim Al-Khiyam Attack

NC101726 Paris AFP in English 1653 GMT 10 Mar 85

[Excerpt] Beirut, March 10 (AFP) — An anonymous spokesman claiming to represent the Lebanese National Resistance Front (LNRF) today announced the front had carried out an attack against Israeli forces in the Al-Khiyam region near the Lebanese-Israeli frontier. In a telephone call to the AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE bureau in Beirut, the spokesman said that LNRF militants had attacked the Israelis "in response to the car bomb at Bir al-'Abd." A car bomb attack in the Bir al-'Abd region of Beirut Friday killed 68 people and wounded more than 256. The LNRF spokesman said the front would respond in like manner to Israel's operation against "our people in south Lebanon and the suburbs."

10 Israelis Killed

NC101949 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 10 Mar 85

[Text] The heroic suicide operation carried out by national resistance fighters against an Israeli occupation forces' convoy in Al-Khiyam this afternoon, resulting in the death of 10 enemy soldiers and the wounding of scores of others, was followed by other daring oeprations in which heavy-caliber weapons and rockets were used. National resistnace fighters of the [words indistinct] group, using rockets, attacked and hit the Israeli military commander's headquarters in Tyre this afternoon. No information is available about the number of enemy losses because of the security cordon that has been imposed around the area. Using rockets, the Martyr Husayn al-Shuhaybli group attacked an enemy forces' position located between Dayr Kifa and Sil'a, destroying two enemy vehicles.

At approximately 1820, national resistance fighters of the Martyr Khalil 'Atwi group detonated an explosive charge as an Israeli enemy patrol was passing near the Al-Mansuri junction, destroying an Israeli vehicle and inflicting over four casualties on the enemy. Shortly before midnight last night, national resistance fighters attacked an enemy position south of Tyre with three rockets and machinegun fire.

Bomb Intended for Metulla

NC110524 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0400 GMT 11 Mar 85

[Text] REUTER reports that the Al-Khiyam blast is the gravest attack to which the Israeli forces have been subjected in south Lebanon since the bombing of the Israeli military governor's headquarters in Tyre in 1983, when 29 Israelis were killed. REUTER reported last night that a spokesman for the national resistance told a Western news agency in Beirut that the booby-trapped car was originally prepared for use against the Israeli settlement of Metulla. The spokesman added: a tactical error by one of our colleagues compelled us to detonate the car near an Israeli military position. However, the world will see very soon that we can reach the heart of Israel and can completely destroy the myth of the supremacy of the Zionist military. The spokesman added: This operation, carried out by our heroic martyr Hazim, is only a link in the chain of future operations.

Reportage on Fighting Between Army, Israeli Forces

Fire Traded; Towns Shelled

NC110833 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0815 GMT 11 Mar 85

[Text] According to a military source, the Israeli forces have been firing on Al-Zrariyah and Army positions there with tanks and heavy machineguns since 0600. The Israelis are also advancing on these positions. The source stated that the Lebanese Army is returning the fire with appropriate weapons. Our correspondent reports that the towns of Al-Zrariyah and Al-Khara'ib are being shelled, and that there have been some civilian casualties.

'Violent Clashes' Continuing

NC110927 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0907 GMT 11 Mar 85

[Text] Military sources informed us a short while ago that the Army's positions in Zrariyah are still receiving tank fire and heavy machinegun fire. The Lebanese Army and inhabitants are resisting the advance of the Israeli forces with heavy fire. An additional Army force has been dispatched from Tyre to Zrariyah to reinforce the Army unit there and re-establish communications, which were disrupted approximately 1 hour ago. What is important is that violent clashes are still raging between the Lebanese Army and the inhabitants of Zrariyah on the one side and the Israeli forces on the other. According to available reports, the Israeli Forces tried to advance toward the town but the Lebanese Army and the population are resisting this advance. The clashes are still going on. Our correspondent in Sidon reports that the inhabitants have suffered 12 casualties as a result of the Israeli shelling. The wounded have been removed to the 'Ala' al-Din hospital for treatment.

Army in South Reinforced

NC110958 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 11 Mar 85

[Excerpt] A motorized division has arrived in Jba' to reinforce the Armed Forces in the south. The division took up positions in the Social Medical Center. The Israeli forces shelled the towns of Jba', 'Ayn Biswar, 'Ayn Qana', and Humin al-Fawqa between 2230 last night and 0430 this morning, causing enormous damage to several houses. The 'Ayn Qana school sustained heavy damages. Members of Lahd's militia in Jarju' opened fire at 'Ayn Qana and Humin al-Fawqa. An explosive device went off this morning when an enemy patrol was passing on the Al-Hamiri Road, east of Tyre. The occupation forces cut the roads leading to the area and shelled the areas of Al-Misriyat and (Al-Wasta)

west of Al-Zrariyah. The occupation forces closed the Al-Khardali Bridge for traffic this morning.

Israelis Surround Irzay

NC110945 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0928 GMT 11 Mar 85

[Text] Military sources reported a short while ago that clashes are continuing between the Lebanese Army and the inhabitants on the one side and the Israeli forces, which are trying to advance toward Al-Zrariyah in Al-Zahrani area, on the other. The clashes began this morning. The sources affirmed that the Israelis have not entered the town but have landed forces on the surrounding hills. They began shelling the Army's positions which returned the fire. The clashes are continuing. It has also been reported that the Israelis have surrounded Irzay town from all directions.

Army Statement on Clashes

NC111014 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0952 GMT 11 Mar 85

[Statement issued on 11 March by the Army Command's Guidance Directorate]

[Text] Israeli forces have been shelling the Army's positions in Al-Zrariyah since 0600 today in an attempt to advance toward the town. The Israeli forces are using tanks and various other vehicles. Army units in these positions have employed a variety of weapons to resist the Israelis. The fighting is still in progress.

Hand-To-Hand Combat Reported

NC111142 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 11 Mar 85

[Text] Following fierce clashes between the inhabitants of Al-Zrariyah and the Army on the one side and the Israeli enemy forces on the other, the enemy succeeded, after a number of failed attempts to break into Al-Zrariyah and enter the township with 40 vehicles. Fierce hand-to-hand combat is taking place now. The results are not known yet.

Areas Near Al-Zrariyah Shelled

NC111246 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 11 Mar 85

[Excerpts] According to reports, 60 enemy vehicles and 70 soldiers have moved secretly from Ansar to surround Al-Zrariyah. The town of Al-Kharayib has come under artillery fire. The people and national forces in Irzay have resisted the army of occupation. Those manning the Jarju' checkpoint shelled Jba' and Humin. In another development, the Army command in the south has sent reinforcements to Kawthariyat al-Siyad and others along the combat lines. A convoy of vehicles and heavy weapons left the Lebanese Army barracks in Sidon and Al-Salihiyah en route to the south. National resistance fighters detonated an explosive charge while an enemy patrol was passing on the Al-Hamiri road east of Tyre at dawn today. Security sources said the Israelis cut the road and shelled the areas of Al-Matariyah and (Al-Wasta) west of Al-Zrariyah.

Israeli Helicopter Downed

NC111405 (Clandestine) Voice of Arab Lebanon in Arabic 1351 GMT 11 Mar 85

[Text] We have just received reports stating that Al-Zrariyah is the scene of fierce fighting between the Zionist occupation forces on the one hand and the Lebanese Army and national Islamic resistance fighters on the others. Hand-to-hand combat is taking place. A number of Zionists have been killed. Meanwhile, the occupation forces are trying to bring an armored unit into (Al-Sanna'), which is located between Irzay and Al-Khara'ib. The Lebanese Army and members of the national resistance have checked the invading forces.

We have just been informed that a Zionist helicopter has been shot down by a SAM missile.

3 Israelis Killed, 4 Wounded in Al-Nabatiyah Attack

NC111212 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1152 GMT 11 Mar 85

[Text] We have just received the following report from the South: At 1030 today a member of the Lebanese national resistance used hand grenades to attack an Israeli patrol that included a jeep and three personnel carriers. The attack took place on a street in Al-Nabatiyah. He succeeded in scoring a direct hit on the jeep. Three enemy soldiers were killed, and four others were wounded in the attack.

Amal Reportedly Arrests Israeli 'Collaborator'

NC090659 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0635 GMT 9 Mar 85

[Text] Knowledgeable sources last night disclosed that the Amal Movement has arrested an Israeli collaborator, who admitted to bringing three booby-trapped cars into Beirut and the southern suburb.

U.S. Embassy Cited on Threats to Observers

NC091303 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 9 Mar 85

[Text] The U.S. Embassy in Beirut has disclosed that after receiving death threats , U.S. observers in the south refrained from going to work. The Lebanese Foreign Ministry did not receive anything from Washington indicating that it plans to recall those observers, despite the stir about this matter.

Khaddam Returns From Talks in Beirut 10 Mar

JN102030 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 10 Mar 85

[Excerpt] The fourth and fifth rounds of talks between Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam and Lebanese President Amin al-Jumayyil were held in Bikfayya today. Rashid Karami, the prime minister; Walid Junblatt, minister of public works and tourism; and Nabih Birri, minister of state for the affairs of the south, reconstruction, resources, and justice, attended the talks.

During the fourth round, which was held at 1100 today, discussion was resumed on the issues of political reform and security. Discussion of these issues was resumed in the fifth round, which was held at 1515 today and which was also attended by the members of the Lebanese Military Council.

At his place of residence, 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam had earlier received Birri and Junblatt. They discussed the developments that will guarantee a way out of the internal Lebanese crisis, the implementation of the political reforms program contained in the national unity government's statement, and what was reached at the Lausanne conference.

Al-Shar' Criticizes Jordan-PLO Agreement

JN081942 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1815 GMT 8 Mar 85

[Text] Tokyo – Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' has affirmed that a just peace in the Middle East cannot be achieved without achieving a strategic balance between Syria and Israel. Addressing the Japanese Press Club, Al-Shar' said that the moves witnessed by the region these days among Amman, Cairo, and 'Arafat will only lead to the relinquishment of the Palestinian Arab people's rights. He explained that their talk about the Arab Fes plan, UN resolutions, and international conferences is mere deception. At the beginning of his move, which was similar to theirs, Al-Sadat persistently called for regaining the Palestinian Arab people's rights more than they are doing now.

Al-Shar' wondered: Where are the Palestinian people's rights which Al-Sadat called for? He said that their approach is the same as that of Al-Sadat and their course is the Camp David course.

He said that Israel will not concede an inch of occupied Arab territory or any Palestinian right unless it is forced to do so. The Lebanese example is still alive in the Arab nation's conscience, he added. Al-Shar' asserted that the majority of the Palestinian people and their national leadership, especially in the West Bank, Gaza, and Jordan, oppose the Amman agreement because it is the path of capitulation.

Returns From Japan

JN110758 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0730 GMT 11 Mar 85

[Text] Damascus, 11 Mar (SANA) – Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and his accompanying delegation returned to Damascus late last night after a 5-day visit to Japan. During the visit, the foreign minister held two rounds of talks with his Japanese counterpart on the current situation in the Middle East and bilateral relations. He also met with the Japanese emperor and prime minister. In a statement before departing Tokyo, Al-Shar' said the talks with the Japanese side were frank and useful because they clarified the two countries' stands on political issues of mutual interest.

AL-THAWRAH Views U.S.-Israeli Trade Zone Pact

JN091038 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0345 GMT 9 Mar 85

[From the press review]

[Text] In an editorial today, *AL-THAWRAH* says: The United States and Israel have signed an officials agreement to establish a free trade zone between them in order to enhance and develop the strategic alliance agreement concluded between Washington and Tel Aviv in 1981. It is quite clear that this agreement entails many threats to the security and stability of the area because the United States can, by virtue of this economic agreement with Israel, conslidate its direct military presence in the Middle East and strengthen the Israeli aggressive abilities – since it is the first time the United States has concluded such an economic agreement with a foreign country. This pact shows that the United States will finance and provide cover for any aggression perpetrated by Israel in the area.

AL-THAWRAH adds: Through this new and hazardous U.S. trend, the Zionist enemy can absolutely rely on U.S. support and exploit this support in implementing its extensive expansionist plans against the Arabs. Undoubtedly, the long-term results of this agreement will be further disasters for the Arabs because the United States deals only with Israel.

It is obvious that this agreement is a strong slap in the face to those who call for neutralizing the U.S. stand and those who attempt to create illusions in the Arab mind.

AL-THAWRAH adds: Likewise, this agreement constitutes another slap in the face to the forces of capitulation and deviation in the Arab arena since it is no coincidence that this serious agreement was signed on the eve of Mubarak's visit to Washington and his conspiratorial meeting with King Husayn in Al-Ghurdaqah. The U.S. timing of this pact clearly affirms that the United States understands the capitulation policy and sees it as a way to support and encourage Israel to proceed on an aggressive and expansionist line. Through this trend, the United States agrees to negotiate with regimes of capitulation and treason in the area because to the United States, Israel will remain a strategic obsession [hajis] which prompts the United States to employ all its political, military, and economic potential into stands and practices that contribute to strengthening Israel and enabling it to perpetuate its occupation of the Arab territories and to expand this occupation if possible.

In such a situation, Mubarak, the king of Jordan, and 'Arafat cannot hide the facts because the line of capitulation and Camp David which they adopt encourages the United States to develop its special ties with Israel and to conclude political, military, and

economic conventions and agreements with it, out of the U.S. desire to prompt the Zionist enemy to start new wars in the area and to assist it in achieving its strategic plans against the Arab nation.

In the presence of this gross U.S. challenge, the Arab nation is expected to move quickly to confront this siege and contain its consequences. This can never be achieved except through devising a pan-Arab and comprehensive plan to hit the U.S. interests and enhance struggle toward confronting the line of deviation and capitulation and toppling its tools and stooges.

Mubarak's Visit to Washington Criticized

JN091313 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 9 Mar 85

[Station commentary]

[Text] The president of the Egyptian regime is leaving for Washington to meet with U.S. President Ronald Reagan. This is not the first time that he has visited Washington. After the previous visit, he returned empty-handed from the Egyptian and Arab viewpoints after the Americans chided him for some statements and behavior that could be interpreted as a kind of minor deviation from the Camp David line, which is drawn in Washington and Tel Aviv.

He returned after he was given the U.S. demands that are concerned with declaring full adherence to the Camp David agreements, normalizing relations with Israel, returning the Egyptian ambassador to Tel Aviv, and other U.S. demands pertaining to keeping the Egyptian regime in the Camp David cage.

Today, the Egyptian regime's president heads to Washington not as a representative of those Arabs who adhere to Arab land, rights, and dignity, as President Jamal 'Abd al-Nasir was in the the past, but as a president of a regime that is a satellite of the United States and which is shackled with the Camp David chains and U.S. military and economic aid. This regime cannot deviate from the U.S. will and line even if it tends to do so by itself.

As the title of a book may reveal its contents, the nature of the visit appears from the initiative that the Camp David regime's president had announced in Cairo before leaving for Washington. This initiative can be summed up as follows:

1. Placing the Middle East crisis, including the Arabs' basic pan-Arab cause in the hands of the United States, the Arabs' enemy and Israel's protector.

2. Shunning the friends of the Arabs from the settlement efforts by shunning the United Nations organizations and the international conference, which is supposed to be held under UN auspcies and with USSR and PLO participation.

3. Abandoning the Rabat summit resolutions pertaining to the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, headed by their right to self-determination and to establishing their national state on their own soil.

4. Calling on the Palestinians to join direct negotiations with Israel on the basis of resolutions that consider the Palestinian cause a refugee problem.

This initiative, which was announced by the Camp David regime before the departure of its president to Washington, is in fact a number of serious concessions to Israel and the United States. These concessions will be wrapped in one parcel that will take all the cards from the Arabs and place them in the hands of Washington and Tel Aviv. What positive results can the Camp David regime's president bring back in terms of the Palestinian cause or the cause of peace in the region? What can he bring back after all these concessions, which he announced and which he invited the Palestinians and the Jordanians to offer?

Those who go to Washington begging for settlements, solutions, and sympathy, will bring only further disappointment to the Arabs and more humiliation and ignominy in front of Israel and the United States. Nothing good for the Arabs can come from Washington. It is standing by Israel and behind Israeli policy, wars, and aggressions. It is responsible for Israeli occupation of Arab territories and its usurpation of the Palestinian Arab people's rights. Those who want fresh proof should review the U.S. stands toward Israel's new crimes and massacres in southern Lebanon, its challenge to the UN Security Council's majority, and its threats to use the veto to prevent the United Nations from condemning Israel.

The United States opposes the Arab Palestinian people's right of self-determination and of establishing their independent national state on their own soil. It opposes the principle of Israeli withdrawal from all the Arab territories that Israel occupied by force. The Arabs who look for solutions in Washington's lap can only offer concessions after concessions. They can only distance themselves further from the Arab patriotic, and pan-Arab position.

AL-THAWRAH on Need for Lebanese National Accord

JN101038 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0345 GMT 10 Mar 85

[From the press review]

[Text] *AL-THAWRAH* comments on the Lebanese national accord and Syrian support for Lebanon, saying: The intensive moves in the Lebanese arena to achieve political reform are considered a positive and necessary development not only because reform is a basic factor in Lebanon's salvation and the achievement of accord among its sons, but also because it represents the decisive Lebanese reply to Israel and its agents who are trying to provoke seditions, commit massacres, hamper national accord, and obstruct the steps aimed at entrenching security and stability and achieving political reforms.

Therefore ladies and gentlemen, it is not a coincidence for Israel and its agents to commit their barbaric massacre in the southern suburb at this particular time in order to escalate the fierce onslaught against the Lebanese people in all areas after the failure of the plan to provoke seditions, organize massacres, and confront the resisting sons of the south. Those who are harmed by the Lebanese accord and its steps on the path of political

reform are Israel and its agents. Syria, which has supported and is still supporting every Lebanese effort to liberate the Lebanese territories from the Israeli invaders and assisting the Lebanese national resistance in its honorable struggle to liberate the south, considers the achievement of national accord and political reform a basic task which everyone must work for in order to complete all aspects of the salvation drive.

TISHRIN Calls for Security Measures in Lebanon

JN101131 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0800 GMT 10 Mar 85

[Excerpts] Damascus, 10 Mar (SANA) — *TISHRIN* has called for adopting deterrent security measures in Lebanon to prevent Israel and its agents from tampering with the lives of innocent citizens, to expedite achievement of the political solution, and to remove the impediment of this solution.

In its comment today under the headline "Significance of the Political Solution," the paper says: Delay in achieving the required solution will reflect not only on the security level, but also on the economic level. It is time to close all loopholes through which the Zionists and those harmed by the emergence of a healthy Lebanon infiltrate.

TISHRIN stresses that Syria, which has rendered every support for the fraternal country, will continue its incessant efforts to crystallize a political solution that satisfies all the parties, enhances the prestige of the Lebanese state, and helps liberate the south from the invaders. Lebanon is today readier than ever before for the political solution and internal relaxation, which has become an urgent demand by all the Lebanese people. All developments indicate that we are close to a solution and that the issue requires only good intentions. The good intentions of everyone are needed to remove Lebanon from its dilemma for good.

IDF Soldiers Killed, Wounded by Bomb in S. Lebanon

Shi'ites Claim Responsibility

TA110539 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
0500 GMT 11 Mar 85

[Text] In the explosion of a booby-trapped car about 1 km north of Metulla, 12 soldiers were killed and 14 wounded, 3 of them critically. The IDF spokesman this morning released the names of eight of the dead soldiers and the times of their funerals: Staff Seargent Hayim Avner will be buried at 1400 in the military cemetery on Mount Herzl in Jerusalem; Staff Seargent Avraham Buzaglo will be buried at 1530 in the military cemetery in Migdal Ha'emeq; Efrayim Mikha'el will be buried at 1530 in the military section of the Holon cemetery; Lance Corporal Dani Melamed will be buried at 1500 in the military cemetery in 'Akko; the funeral of Private Shlomo Nagar will take place at 1530 in the Hadera cemetery; Corporal Khatib Bruken will be buried at 1300 in Bet Jann; Seargent Yitzhaq Shahar-Swissa will be buried at 1500 in the Qiryat Shemona cemetery; Corporal Alexander Schneiderman will be buried in Karmi'el at 1600.

The booby-trapped car, a Lebanese pickup truck, exploded at noon yesterday, near a truck transporting IDF soldiers, shortly after the Israeli truck entered Lebanon as part of a convoy. The booby-trapped car apparently contained about 100 kg of explosives. One of the officers in the convoy noticed the Lebanese pickup truck and signalled to the driver to pull over to the shoulder of the road. The driver of the pickup truck obeyed the signal and, a few minutes afterward, blew his vehicle up next to the IDF truck.

Three Shi'ite terror organizations assumed responsibility for the terrorist act: The Islamic Jihad organization declared it had plotted to get the booby-trapped car to Metulla but an error disrupted its plan. The National Resistance Front and the Mojahidin organization also assumed responsibility for the act.

Six wounded soldiers are hospitalized in the Haifa Rambam Hospital. Three of them are in critical condition while three others sustained moderate wounds. All the wounded soldiers are conscious. Six other soldiers are hospitalized in the Tel Hashomer Hospital; they sustained slight or moderate wounds and their condition improved last night. Two wounded soldiers are hospitalized in the Zefat Government Hospital after sustaining moderate wounds. This is reported by our correspondent Yaron Enosh.

IDF soldiers renewed searches in the 'Uyun Valley north of Metulla this morning; they are looking for items of clothing and equipment belonging to the victims of the explosion, and are checking whether remnants of explosives remain in the region.

Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that several water reservoirs in the area will be emptied in the course of this morning's searches.

Al-Khardali Bridge Closed

TA110654 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
0640 GMT 11 Mar 85

[Text] In the wake of yesterday's incident, the IDF closed off the Al-Khardali bridge on the Al-Litani River which had been open to Lebanese vehicle traffic from the direction of Al-Nabatiyah. Beginning today, merchandise will be transferred by hand from one vehicle to another. Our military correspondent Shmu'el Tal reports that in this way the IDF will try to prevent the passage of cars that may potentially cause casualties.

Peres, Others React

TA110553 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
0500 GMT 11 Mar 85

[Text] The prime minister expressed his condolences and sympathy for the bereaved families and wished a speedy recovery for the wounded soldiers. An announcement issued by the Prime Minister's Office states that Israel will not cease its war against terrorism; and it will not let terror dictate Israel's security policy.

The defense minister also expressed deep sorrow and sympathy for the families of the dead soldiers. He also extended wishes for the speedy recovery of the wounded. Minister Yitzhaq Rabin emphasized that the fight against terrorism, which has become entrenched in Lebanon, and the terrorism that has developed during the war are still continuing. Our military correspondent is with Minister Rabin now and we will broadcast an interview with him later.

Minister 'Ezer Weizman believes it may be possible to carry out the third stage of the withdrawal now. In any event, the situation should be reassessed, and in his opinion, we should deploy along the international border.

Minister Hayim Corfu believes the IDF should carry out the deployment plan as scheduled. In his opinion, one should not act under pressure and give the impression of escaping because of attacks against us.

Minister Amnon Rubinstein told our correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami that in his opinion Israel has nothing to do in Lebanon; a brave decision must be adopted and the IDF must be pulled out of there at once, lest the Shi'ite terror deals us a heavy blow.

Abba Eban, the head of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, said those who brought about this damnable war should do some soul-searching. Knesset Members Victor Shemtov and Yosi Sarid will ask the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee tomorrow to vote on their proposal for an immediate withdrawal from Lebanon.

Former Intelligence Chief Yehoshu'a Sagi believes Israel should clear the IDF-controlled area of terrorists and to build a border fence around it. He told our military correspondent there is no proven solution to terrorism under existing circumstances, and the terrorists have proved that it is possible to pursue the IDF

Rabin Interviewed

TA110643 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 11 Mar 85

[Interview with Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin by military correspondent Shmu'el Tal, at the defense minister's house in Zahala on 11 March — live]

[Text] [Tal] Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, we would like to hear what you have to say this morning.

[Rabin] To begin with, I would like to express deep sorrow and sympathy for the families who lost their dear ones yesterday, as well as to wish speedy recovery for the wounded.

[Tal] Mr Rabin, it was clear to us the terrorists would try to carry out a terrorist act and there were warnings, but this still took place. How did this happen?

[Rabin] When we speak of an antiterror battle, one should remember two key problems: These are murderous terrorist acts perpetrated by people who do not intend to commit suicide, who do not mean to turn themselves into a live bomb by exploding a car, truck, or pickup truck. We have acted against such conventional terror activities with quite a degree of success, in my opinion. The Shi'ite terrorism is the only one in the Middle East, and if I am not mistaken, the only one in the world, which has a host of madmen who are prepared to commit suicide at its disposal. This is not the first suicidal act perpetrated against the IDF in Lebanon. There have already been more than six such acts. The tragedy is that this time the kamikaze terrorist indeed inflicted heavy casualties on us.

[Tal] Do you mean that in the future also the terrorists will be able to hit the IDF with booby-trapped cars whenever and wherever they please?

[Rabin] The IDF has drawn lessons from past incidents. It is a fact that the kamikaze terrorist this time knew it was doubtful he could enter an IDF camp or Israel's territory. The justification for a security zone stems, first and foremost, from the need to prevent a situation whereby such mad kamikaze terrorists can arrive on our territory. There is no absolute certainty that a person who decides to commit suicide with his vehicle can be prevented from doing so. We will do everything possible to prevent such vehicles from being present in areas still under our control.

[Tal] What value is there indeed to the security zone decided by the government if such terrorist acts are perpetrated several hundred meters away from the Metulla fence?

[Rabin] The objective of the security zone is to prevent such terrorist acts from reaching Israel's territory.

[Tal] Mr Rabin, is it already clear where this booby-trapped car came from?

[Rabin] Not all the details are clear yet.

[Tal] In your opinion, can such an act be ignored?

[Rabin] The IDF has been fighting terrorism with whatever measures we find necessary. I will surely not say today what we will or will not do.

[Tal] Mr Rabin, the recent increase in searches and acts to foil terrorist activities conducted in hostile villages were subject to quite a bit of criticism. However, so far, it has been said, these acts have somewhat reduced the number of casualties, but this has not proved to be the case now.

[Rabin] One should take into consideration that we are talking of a comprehensive approach adopted by the government on 14 January. We are going through a process of IDF redeployment which should bring us back to the international border with the aim of defending the northern settlements and residents. In addition, we will maintain an IDF-backed security zone north of the international border. We are in the midst of this redeployment and intend to continue it as necessary. I do not want to describe the situation as easy; the situation is difficult and there are no easy solutions in Lebanon for the reality created there. The attitude adopted by the government, in order to both defend the northern settlements and return the IDF home, is the correct one. It should be carried out while engaged in a hard struggle against all kinds of terrorism, especially the Shi'ite terror today. To my great regret, it is impossible to find easy solutions.

[Tal] Some say the decision on withdrawal should be perhaps reassessed and that the withdrawal should perhaps be accelerated. Why indeed should we not decide to withdraw tomorrow — take what we can and blow up the rest, just climb onto the Zeldas [M-113 armored personnel carrier] and move southward?

[Rabin] We cannot do so because we must think of the consequences. The restricting element in implementing the second stage of the withdrawal plan adopted by the government is only a matter of logistics; there is nothing restricting the implementation of this stage except for logistics, that is, IDF's ability to evacuate the eastern sector to the prescribed line. We are faced with terrorists who want to harm us, and there is no certainty they will restrict themselves to our presence in Lebanon only; there is no certainty that the radical Shi'ite, Khomeynist elements in Lebanon will try to continue to hit Israel. Therefore, in implementing the IDF redeployment, we should take into consideration the future, also; we should have a comprehensive plan. How will we live along the international border with a reasonable amount of security for our settlements?

[Tal] In conclusion, Mr Rabin, do you believe that the world's, even Israel's public opinion, will accept a strong action in the security zone such as, let us say, the expulsion northward of a whole potentially hostile population?

[Rabin] It is inconceivable to any of us, at this stage, to expell a population which does not cooperate with [the terrorists] or act against us. All the actions carried out by the IDF are carried out with one goal in mind: to discover the terrorists' arms, to find the terrorists, and to disrupt their ability to act, as part of our process of redeployment.

Shamir Views Regional Initiatives, U.S. Aid

TA090942 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0805 GMT 9 Mar 85

[Interview with Yitzhaq Shamir, vice prime minister and foreign minister, by political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer; date and place not given — recorded]

[Text] [Schiffer] Mr Vice Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, early next week you will be leaving for Brussels for talks with the EEC on the many facets of Israel's agricultural exports. Where do things stand now, and what are your chances of succeeding?

[Shamir] My visit to Brussels is pursuant to my earlier visits to EC capitals. Having talked with the members of the highest political echelons of the EC member-states, I now want to talk with the executive echelon, the supreme body that implements policy, and I would like to find out whether it has already received all the instructions from the political echelon in terms of guaranteeing Israeli agricultural exports on the European market, and how it is implementing these instructions. I hope that some progress has already been made. According to information I have received, the people — country leaders — I met have already taken the measures they promised they would take. However, naturally the EC mechanism is rather complex and they have a lot of problems to tackle, so that I will see where things stand and try to promote our cause.

[Schiffer] Claude Cheysson, whom you are expected to meet, has recently criticized Israel for actually looking for bargains and discounts everywhere: It is currently engaged in an effort to abolish levies and establish a free trade zone with the United States, and at the same time, it is continuing to demand reductions from the EEC. He expressed the fear that this might harm European products.

[Shamir] I know that Claude Cheysson raised this issue, but we will explain to him that it is totally unrelated to Israel's relations with the EC and that it is no crime to seek privileges wherever possible; Europe, every country in Europe, also does the same thing. As far as I know, Claude Cheysson takes a favorable view of Israel's economic problems, and particularly the problems of the Israeli agriculture, and I hope he will cooperate with us and do what is necessary.

[Schiffer] With your permission, Mr Shamir, let us move on to another subject. Last week the regional diplomatic activity continued — Mubarak conferred with Husayn — and everyone is lookingfor a compromise, or a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation that will be acceptable to all sides. What kind of compromise will you accept in terms of the composition of the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation?

[Shamir] At the moment, I have no need to seek a compromise on this matter, since as far as I can tell, nowhere in these talks was there any mention of peace negotiations with Israel. Instead, they deal with obtaining an understanding and a common plan shared by the PLO, Jordan, and Egypt. The broader their common ground is that will be acceptable and satisfactory to all the parties, the less acceptable it will be to us. What will be acceptable to the PLO will not be acceptable to Israel, so that I think that at the moment the main purpose of these talks is to make the PLO palatable to the United States, bring about U.S. recognition of the PLO, and lead to U.S. talks with that organization. That is very bad for Israel, and I think Israel for its part should do everything possible to prevent this development. I hope the U.S. position, which has to date been similar to ours, will continue as in the past.

[Schiffer] Still, regarding your position: Do you object to the concept of peace in return for territories?

[Shamir] This is a mere phrase that means nothing. I do not think it is relevant to us. If you mean UN Security Council Resolution 242, Israel has fulfilled that resolution above and beyond, as they say. By virtue of the Camp David accords, Israel has returned more than 90 percent of the territories mentioned in the resolution.

[Schiffer] Yet this resolution also referred to Judaea and Samaria? Will you accept that, too?

[Shamir] Regarding Judaea and Samaria, Israel will persist in pursuing the proposed autonomy plan, which entails risks. The autonomy plan equals the implementation of 242 in the area of our eastern border.

[Schiffer] Sir, let us move on to statements made last week by Prime Minister Shim'on Peres on this business of searching for peace. Speaking at the Knesset, he noted that many raised the devil when he began scrupulously looking for peace. In fact, although he specifically mentioned someone else, he meant you [in the Likud], and perhaps even you personally. What made you react so strongly?

[Shamir] Look, I do not know exactly whom the prime minister had in mind when he addressed the Knesset. I can only say that it is true that peace must always be sought, but in Israel it was the Likud that found peace. After all, it is an irrefutable historic fact that the first peace treaty between Israel and an Arab country was achieved by Menahem Begin's government whose main component was the Likud. Therefore, no one can say that the Likud opposes peace, is hampering it, or curbing the peace process.

[Schiffer] Sir, according to the prime minister, it is also the Likud that actually compromised the future of Judaea and Samaria, and Tabah, by accepting the autonomy plan, which is a 5-year plan, and by admitting — according to Shim'on Peres — that Tabah is a disputed and negotiable issue.

[Shamir] Let me answer you on this one point at a time: First of all, regarding Tabah. There seems to be some misunderstanding here. When, in April 1982, the Egyptians demanded that we evacuate Tabah, Mr Begin suggested that since there was a territorial dispute around it, we should act according to the peace treaty stipulations. The peace treaty between us and Egypt has an article, Article 7, which incidentally appears in nearly all peace treaties between all countries; this article says that in the event of a dispute, there is an agreed- upon way to deal with it, that is: negotiations, conciliation, or arbitration. There may be different solutions, which is why we told the Egyptians that if

they have problems and complaints about Tabah, we should behave according to the terms of the peace treaty.

As for Judaea and Samaria, this is the first time I have ever heard that by proposing the autonomy plan, Israel has cast doubt on their future. That is far from the truth.

[Schiffer] I mean in terms of the sovereignty over those territories.

[Shamir] Israel said: We believe that they should be under our sovereignty, but since there are other opinions, and we want to reach a compromise and a peace treaty, let us accept the autonomy plan now — a plan we want to implement anyhow — and later we will engage in negotiations. In those negotiations our position will be just the same: Sovereignty over those areas should remain with us, but any other party is welcome to propose its ideas for solutions. The solution that will be adopted should be acceptable to everyone — including us.

[Schiffer] The weekend press is full of headlines and promises by Egyptian personalities, vowing a future improvement of bilateral ties. Have you already noticed any signs of the improvement we should expect to see in the near future?

[Shamir] There is still no improvement, although the very desire for such improvement also affects the atmosphere. I think all of us should be interested in improving our relations with Egypt, and I would very much like to provide the Egyptians with an opportunity to put this desire to the test. I believe the best way to improve ties is a dialogue about all the contentious bilateral issues, so that from the many problems neither party selects one topic it is interested in, such as Tabah, and tries to pressure the other party into achieving a solution to it. Let us discuss everything, Tabah included, but also the return of the Egyptian ambassador to Israel; normalization; economic, cultural, and tourism ties; and the anti-Israeli propaganda in the Egyptian press. Let us talk about the whole host of issues, and engage in a dialogue on the entire range. I am convinced that this way it will be possible to reach the desirable solutions and the improvement of ties between Israel and Egypt.

[Schiffer] Do you still think that during the Egyptian president's visit to the United States the Jewish lobby and our friends in Congress have to grill President Mubarak, as the saying goes, and ask him why he has not implemented all the measures you have just mentioned?

[Shamir] We instruct neither the lobby nor American Jewry. However, it is common knowledge that the facts are well known in the United States, particularly in Congress, and everyone knows that the United States is a partner to the Camp David accords. Thus, it is very natural for them to ask an Egyptian leader, when he comes, why Egypt has failed to honor its commitment included in the peace treaty. It is not our business to tell them what to do.

[Schiffer] Late last week, we heard that for the moment, Israel will not receive emergency aid from the United States. Secretary of State George Shultz is quoted as saying that Israel's control of prices and salaries is like putting a lid on a pot of boiling water without turning down the heat. As far as Shultz is concerned, it is more important to lower the heat. Are you disappointed with the announcement that there will be no emergency aid now?

[Shamir] Of course we would have liked to receive the aid we need, and I think that when we receive it it will help tide us over until after the moves we have employed bear fruit. One must remember that Secretary of State Shultz is a noted economist; he is an authority in the United States, and is well acquainted with Israel's economy out of his interest in Israel and out of his sincere desire to see our economy recovered and strong. He believes that since the United States wants to see Israel strong, there cannot be serious security without a sound economy. That is why he has shown interest in our economy. What he tells us from time to time is friendly advice, and this should be heard although it is not always necessary to accept it; sometimes yes, sometimes no. Still, it is necessary to address it for what it is, namely, friendly advice.

Mubarak Message to Peres Reportedly on Summit

TA100635 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 10 Mar 85

[Text] Prime Minister Peres received a verbal message over the weekend from the Egyptian president, Mubarak. The message which was delivered by Egyptian Charge d'Affaires Muhammad Basyuni dealt with the latest developments in the Middle East. The Prime Minister's Office has refused to comment on the contents of the message. The Voice of Israel's political reporter says Prime Minister Peres has a promise from Mubarak to hold a summit meeting shortly after Mubarak returns from the United States.

More on Mubarak Message

TA100841 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 10 Mar 85 p 1

[Report by political correspondent Yosi Melman]

[Text] Egyptian President Husni Mubarak sent over the weekend a detailed report about his meeting with Jordan's King Husayn to Prime Minister Shim'on Peres. The report was conveyed by Egyptian Charge d'Affaires Muhammad Basyuni, Egyptian sources told *DAVAR*.

Basyuni left Thursday morning for Cairo, spent 24 hours there, and met with President Mubarak before the latter left for Paris. During this meeting, the Egyptian president reported on his meeting with King Husayn in Al-Ghurdaqah.

Basyuni returned to Israel at the end of the week and delivered the report to Prime Minister Shim'on Peres.

Mubarak's message to Peres says that there is no change in the Egyptian ideas as originally outlined in the Egyptian president's interview with the *NEW YORK TIMES*. The Egyptian president also says that there is an apparent inclination among the moderate Arab states, including Saudi Arabia and Iraq, to agree to Egypt's proposal for direct negotiations between Israel and a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation.

The Egyptian president said things in the same vein during his meeting with King Husayn. Mubarak also conveyed through Bas'uni a request that Israel not attack the proposal, which will be raised during his talks with President Reagan in Washington, that before direct negotiations begin with Israel, a dialogue take place between the United States and a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation.

Mubarak sought to stress that such a move is not directed against Israel and is designed to promote the peace process and prepare the ground for it.

However, it should be noted that Israel is opposed to this intention, and this opposition is endorsed by the prime minister and the vice prime minister, who believe that it does not advance the peace initiative in the region.

Peres Urges Mubarak to Put 'Claims' on Table
TA100632 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 10 Mar 85

[Text] Prime Minister Shim'on Peres says he is calling on Egypt's President Mubarak to put all his claims on the table and move the peace process forward. Peres was speaking last night to UJA [United Jewish Appeal] leaders in Jerusalem. David Essing reports:

[Begin recording] [Essing] Prime Minister Peres says he is in permanent contact with Egypt's President Mubarak with this objective:

[Peres] And what we are suggesting, and I do hope that the Egyptian president will accept it, is really to put on the table all the claims and all the expectations on the Egyptian side and on the Israeli side, and really make the peace as perfect as human beings can do — to make it conceived and looked upon as a real success, so that we shall be able to tell to more countries in the Middle East and say: Why not. Let's follow the first precedent of peace between them and us.

[Essing] The prime minister noted that the Egyptian leader is now on his way to talks in Washington. And he added: By and large, the U.S. and Israel see eye-to-eye on the effort to overcome the coolness in the Israeli-Egyptian relationship. Turning to Jordan, Peres said there were no easy solutions or any simple formula that could solve the complex issue. But he added:

[Peres] I do believe that King Husayn can and should become an equal partner during (?historic) attempt to solve the problem, as it should be done rightly, patiently, based on compromise.

[Essing] The Prime minister repeated that Israel will not deal with PLO Chief Yasir 'Arafat. Peres said: We are not going to sit with anyone who says he wants to talk but at the same time is trying to kill innocent people. It is either or. The prime minister concluded: There are some openings, and we should be optimistic. But neither should we close our eyes to the long row of differences ahead of us. [end recording]

Peres, Egypt's 'Ali, Ghali Comment on Peace
TA080933 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 8 Mar 85 pp 1, 7

[Report by Orli Azulay-Katz, Smadar Peri, Arye Tzimuqi, and Ze'ev Baraq]

[Excerpt] Interviewed by *YEDI'OT AHARONOT* last night, Prime Minister Shim'on Peres reacted to the message President Mubarak had transmitted via an interview with *YEDI'OT AHARONOT*'s Smadar Peri, in Cairo.

As will be recalled, Mubarak said: "My message to Shim'on Peres and the Israeli Government is that we are working only for peace."

To this, Peres reacted by saying: "I welcome the announcement by President Mubarak, and would like to personally assure him that we are also working toward the same peace. I honestly believe that through a dialogue we will be able to overcome the problems that lie on the way."

Regarding the other developments in the political processes, *YEDI'OT AHARONOT* correspondents Smadar Peri, Arye Tzimuqi, and Ze'ev Baraq report the following:

Interviewed by *YEDI'OT AHARONOT* correspondent Smadar Peri yesterday, Egyptian Prime Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali said: "I know that some people in Israel think that immediately following President Mubarak's return from Washington, all our peace contacts with you will cease, but I promise you that our dialogue must continue, and it will. I would like to reemphasize and clarify that we are not doublecrossing you. We are not working behind your backs. Egypt is serious, and when it talks about peace it tells the truth. I know there are hawks in Israel, too, and I am quite familiar with their arguments, but I would like to appeal to them as well and say this: New steps toward peace are happening now, and they could be acceptable both to Israel and the PLO. I cannot now go into detail on who will participate in the joint Jordanian-PLO delegation, but I would like to repeat that I believe you will be able to accept the agreement that will be reached on this issue."

Dr Butrus Ghali, the Egyptian minister of state for foreign affairs, who was also interviewed by *YEDI'OT AHARONOT*, said: "We in Egypt also have our 'Gush Emunim.' It grieves me to state that you Israelis merely supplied it with more ammunition by your conduct, particularly through the war in Lebanon."

Egypt's 'Ali on Mubarak-Husayn Cooperation
TA080918 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 8 Mar 85 pp 1, 14

[Report by editor Ari Rath on interview with Egyptian Prime Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali; in Cairo on 7 March]

[Text] Cairo — Egyptian Prime Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali said yesterday that new steps are being taken in full coordination with King Husayn to resolve the problem of forming a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation including moderate Palestinians.

He was confident that the solution President Husni Mubarak and Husayn discussed at Wednesday's summit meeting in Al-Ghurdaqah will be acceptable to all the parties concerned.

'Ali explained that the Palestinians in such a joint delegation would include people who "abide by international laws and are not carriers of rifles," but he declined to mention any names for the record.

The Egyptian Prime Minister asked specifically to emphasize to the Israeli public that Egypt will continue and step up its dialogue with Israel, and predicted an exchange of official visits at various levels in the foreseeable future. "Egypt will never double-cross you," he pledged, stressing that Egypt is serious and sincere in its quest for peace.

"In our continuing dialogue you will be able to see that our intentions are to push the peace process forward, since our final goal is a lasting peace in the region. I am quite confident that you have the same intentions. You do not want to remain in a state of war for another 30-40 years," 'Ali reiterated.

Speaking in an interview with *THE JERUSALEM POST* at his office in the heart of Cairo — a picturesque, Renaissance-style palace from the days of Egypt's monarchy — Premier 'Ali stated that the Al-Ghurdaqah summit had been very positive, both from Husayn's and from Egypt's point of view. "There were absolutely no disagreements between President Mubarak and King Husayn and we were often astonished at how similar the thinking of both delegations was.

"During his visit in Washington next week, President Mubarak will clarify to President Reagan how one can keep up the peace momentum following the meeting with Husayn and the Husayn-'Arafat agreement," 'Ali said.

'Ali hoped that following Mubarak's Washington visit, the U.S. would again step up its active involvement in the Middle East for the benefit of the peace process.

It is understood that in trying to get a U.S. dialogue going with a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation, Egypt intends to create a situation where there would be no need for a UN umbrella for Middle East negotiations, at least not until a very late stage.

'Ali was particularly pleased that Husayn had stood fast and not permitted any changes or amendments to his agreement with PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat. That applies particularly to article two of the agreement, which refers to the unity between Jordan and the West Bank within the context of a confederation.

Political circles here point out that this is the first time that a document which has the consent of the PLO does not refer to an independent Palestinian state.

Senior government officials in Cairo stress that a PLO without George Habash, Nayif Hawatimah and Ahmad Jibril is an entirely different PLO.

'Ali pointed out in this connection that Husayn's meeting with Mubarak was preceded by a visit of three senior PLO officials to Amman, who fully accepted Husayn's explanation of his agreement with 'Arafat, without any changes.

'Ali said the Egyptian delegation at the Al-Ghurdaqah talks was pleased that Husayn had insisted that not even one letter in his agreement with 'Arafat be changed.

As seen from Cairo, the "new" PLO appears far more moderate than before. "It is without the fanatics who often kill one another," according to the Egyptian view.

Speaking about relations with Israel, 'Ali said: "Bilateral relations are there. All we have to do is to give life to the peace treaty. In fact, Israelis are everywhere, as tourists, journalists and in the Academic Cultural Centre which has been renewed." 'Ali takes pride in the fact that tomorrow he will open the Egyptian fair which will include an Israeli pavillion, just as he opened the book fair, including an Israeli stand, several weeks ago.

Stressing that one has to build now for the future and should not dwell too much on the past, 'Ali nevertheless voices a number of complaints, which in his view soured relations. "We should not speak about the last two-three years, because many things happened which could spoil our relations. There was the destruction of Yamit, the invasion of Lebanon and suspension of our dialogue," 'Ali said.

He charged the former Likud government with having stopped the dialogue. "I was foreign minister for four years and we could have talked about Tabah, as well as a number of other issues, but it was Israel which stopped the talks. Now you are withdrawing from Lebanon and I hope that you will soon withdraw to the international border. But what is happening with the Shi'ites, who are human beings, could also spoil the relations somehow," 'Ali said.

Looking towards the future, the Egyptian prime minister lists a number of credit points for Israel. "You have already taken some steps to make life easier in the West Bank with some confidence-building measures. There is a hopeful start to the Tabah talks regarding a possible involvement of the MFO and we hope to be able to move soon to arbitration. That gives a boost to our relations and we will try and help.

"Israel should realize that a comprehensive peace in the region means that Egypt will be a bridge between Israel and the Arab world. This is important to you. Not only being linked to California," 'Ali concluded.

DAVAR Reports on Mubarak Statements in Paris

TA100946 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 10 Mar 85 p 3

["Exclusive" Report from France by Gid'on Kutz]

[Text] Paris — "I doubt whether I will succeed 100 percent in convincing President Reagan. The PLO's participation is a delicate point, but I have not given up hope of convincing him. If the United States wants to promote a solution through negotiations in the Middle East and to participate in them, it must respond positively to such plans. Israel views my initiative as encouraging.

I am glad about that, because this will advance us toward comprehensive peace. If Israel wants such peace, it must agree to my proposal for talks between the United States and a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation. I am embarking on a difficult venture. Should I, because of this, give up hope and return to Cairo?"

Egyptian President Husni Mubarak said this to a *DAVAR* correspondent as he emerged Friday from a working dinner with French President Francois Mitterrand at the Elysee Palace.

"Let us agree on the principle of dialogue between the United States and a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation. Such a dialogue can take place in New York, Philadelphia, or any other place," Mubarak said. The Egyptian president met Friday in Paris with Rashad al-Shawwa, former mayor of Gaza. Al-Shawwa declared that he supports Mubarak's initiative and expressed his satisfaction with the rapprochement between the PLO, Jordan, and Egypt.

The Egyptian president proposed that Al-Shawwa participate in the Palestinian delegation to the talks, if such talks take place. During a dinner with diplomatic correspondents, Al-Shawwa said the participation of notables from the territories in a Jordanian- Palestinian delegation is absolutely possible.

Shamir Terms Recent Arab Moves 'Tricks'

TA080722 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 8 Mar 85 p 1

[Text] Tel Aviv -- The recent closeness between Jordan and the PLO, and between Egypt and the PLO is really a withdrawal from peace, Vice Premier Yitzhaq Shamir said last night.

Speaking at the Tel Aviv Lions' Club he said there were two main obstacles to peace in the Middle East. The first is the PLO, which, although considerably weakened, is still an obstacle to the peace process. The second is the idea that Israel will withdraw to the 1967 borders.

"Israel will never withdraw to the 1967 borders and will never agree to live within borders which will not enable it to exist in security and peace. As long as the Arab countries do not realize that there is no chance for this demand, peace will not arrive."

Shamir said that when the Arab world understands that we will not agree to negotiate with the PLO, to give up Jerusalem, and to withdraw to the 1967 borders, then we will see the buds of real peace, Shamir said.

Now that our enemies, who have always wanted to destroy us, are beginning to understand that they cannot do so, they are resorting to wily tricks, and attempting to cause a rift between Israel and its friends.

Shamir noted, however, that this kind of sly diplomacy is progress nonetheless, because a diplomatic conflict is preferable to a military one.

Shamir: No U.S. Change Without Consultation

TA101014 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0944 GMT 10 Mar 85

[Text] Yitzhaq Shamir, vice prime minister and foreign minister, says he does not believe the United States will drastically change its positions as a result of Egyptian President Husni Mubarak's visit to Washington which begins today. The foreign minister believes that on everything that concerns Israel, the United States will consult us before adopting a position that differs from that with which we are familiar. The foreign minister left a short time ago for Brussels for talks on Israel's status in the EEC.

Regarding relations with Egypt, the foreign minister said he hopes the fabric of relations between the two countries can be nurtured. He said he believes it is necessary to hold a broad and detailed dialogue on all the contentious issues, adding that on Tabah the talks will soon resume in Beersheba.

The foreign minister will return to Israel in 10 days. The report on his remarks come from Ben-Gurion Airport by our correspondent Amnon Nadav.

Shahal Submits News Proposals on Tabah

TA101116 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHAMR in Hebrew 10 Mar 85 p 1, 2

[Report by political correspondent Dalya Shehori]

[Text] According to an understanding reached by Israel, Egypt, and the United States at the time of Camp David, the arbiter on the Tabah issue will be the U.S. President himself if Israel and Egypt do not agree between themselves on an arbiter.

This understanding was reached with Professor Aharon Baraq from the Israeli side, and its existence has just been revealed by Energy and Infrastructure Minister Moshe Shahal following an examination of the documents concerning the Tabah issue.

Shahal submitted to Prime Minister Shim'on Peres over the weekend a paper containing some proposals on the Tabah issue. One of them calls for an unconventional solution to the Tabah issue, should a prior legal examination show that Israel has a slim chance of winning Tabah through international arbitration.

In this connection, Shahal mentions a legal precedence from the time of Napoleon III which is called "the Swiss-French Border Precedence." According to this ruling, the actual border between France and Switzerland passes through France, about 500 meters from the international border. The area between the international border and the actual border is a duty free zone which is under French sovereignty and Swiss utilization.

Shahal believes that there will be room to discuss with Egypt the application of such an idea in Tabah, if it turns out, as already stated, that Israel has a slim legal chance of winning through arbitration. In Tabah, there will be a distinction -- according to the Swiss-French border precedence -- between the international border and the actual border. Formally, Tabah will belong to Egypt, but Egypt's flag will fly on the actual border, and the

border checkpost will be established there and not on the international border.

The assets which are today owned by Israel will continue to be operated as they are today. In his paper to the prime minister, Shahal proposes that before the government discusses its position on the question of arbitration on the Tabah issue, Prime Minister Peres will request the opinion of Israeli jurists and experts on international law regarding Israel's prospects of winning through such arbitration. On the other hand, the Foreign Ministry's legal adviser will be asked to give his opinion, and this will be examined by neutral experts. Furthermore, Israel will ask Egypt, according to Shahal's proposal, to submit a document containing Egypt's detailed demands regarding Tabah. The energy and infrastructure minister also proposes that the government appoint a panel of experts whose job will be to propose various practical solutions to the Tabah issue, based on past international examples. The Swiss-French border precedence was mentioned by Shahal as such a practical solution.

Shahal met last Thursday with Foreign Minister Shamir and reported to him about his visit to Egypt.

Tamir Holds 'Secret Meeting' With Jordanian Envoy

TA101611 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 10 Mar 85 pp 1, 10

[Report by Smadar Peri]

[Text] A few days ago the director general of the Prime Minister's Office, Avraham Tamir, held a secret meeting in Cairo with Jordanian Minister of State 'Adnan Abu 'Awdah.

The meeting was held at Jordan's request because it wanted to put Israel "in the picture" on the eve of the Husayn-Mubarak summit in Al-Ghurdaqah. Amman decided to inform Israel of its current positions on the composition of the Palestinian representation in the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation based on its evaluation of the variety of reactions expected from the national unity government.

The Jordanian minister gave Tamir a list of possible Palestinian candidates for the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation. The Jordanian minister disclosed that there would be six to eight Palestinian representatives in the delegation who are neither members of nor identified with PLO institutions. The list of people given to Tamir includes academics who specialize in international law, as well as people from the Palestinian leadership in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza.

It was also explained to Tamir that the great achievement in the 'Arafat-Husayn agreement lies in the fact that the PLO is no longer demanding the establishment of an independent Palestinian state, but is agreeing to a confederation with Jordan and is agreeing to direct negotiations with Israel, with the participation of the United States. 'Arafat has also withdrawn his demand for an international conference with the participation of the Soviet Union.

It has also been learned that Jordan has sent special envoys to Britain, France, and other European countries, asking their leaders to persuade President Reagan to sympathetically regard the composition of the Palestinian delegation. These messages emphasize that the Jordanian position complements the positions of Egypt and the moderate Palestinian camp, and that it has been brought to Israel's attention.

It will be noted that Avraham Tamir's visit to Egypt was intended to be secret from the beginning. It was only after the report of his departure for Egypt was published in Israel that the public itinerary was published in Cairo, with the dates of his meetings with Egyptian Administration leaders. Ten days ago, in the early hours of the morning, Tamir disappeared, fueling various rumors. It was during this disappearance that Tamir held the meeting with the senior Jordanian minister. The Jordanian minister afterward attended the "summit" in Al- Ghurdaqah.

The visit by Jordanian Minister Abu 'Awdah to Egypt and his secret meeting with Tamir have been kept a strict secret up to now. The Egyptian media refrained from publishing the fact of the Jordanian minister's visit. It was only in the opposition paper *AL-AHALI* that a report appeared a few days ago about "contacts between a senior Israeli official and a senior Jordanian figure."

At the Mubarak-Husayn news conference that concluded the summit meeting between the pair, the Egyptian president was asked if the rumors of Jordanian-Israeli contacts were true. Mubarak answered with a smile: "After all, you know the papers, they often publish amusing reports."

Last night Prime Minister Shim'on Peres repeated that Israel would not agree to the presence of PLO representatives at the talks proposed by Mubarak. "Talking and shooting are not compatible," Peres said. The prime minister, who was speaking to a United Jewish Appeal delegation at the Hilton Hotel in Jerusalem, said he did not trust PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat, who is continuing to use terrorism to attain his goals. However, he confirmed that he regards Husayn as an equal partner in the solution to the problem of the West Bank, which will lead to peace for Israel and Jordan.

Peres Denies Tamir Meeting

TA101412 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 10 Mar 85

[Text] The prime minister has denied that the director of his office met with a Jordanian Government minister. Our political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer reports that Shim'on Peres was replying to a question asked by Minister Sharon during the Cabinet session. This morning one of the Israeli papers reported that the director of the prime minister's office, Avraham Tamir, had met with a minister from Jordan.

Minister Sharon also criticized a proposal by Minister Moshe Shahal for a solution to the Tabah problem. In his view, Israel should not pay for a meeting between its leaders and Arab leaders because it has already paid a heavy price for peace.

Cabinet Meets, Condemns Use of Car Bombs

TA101057 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1045 GMT 10 Mar 85

[Text] The Cabinet session ended a few minutes ago, and then Cabinet Secretary Dr Yosi Beilin read the following communique:

[Begin recording] At today's Cabinet session, the prime minister said that the Government of Israel condemns the method of using car bombs, or killing the innocent. Israel condemns those actions which have recently occurred in lebanon, and regrets that innocent people have fallen victim to this horrendous method.

As for the policy employed over the past few weeks in the areas controlled by the IDF in Lebanon, the prime minister said that the Shi'ites are not our enemies, but every army is entitled to defend its soldiers. No compromise will be made in connection with attempts to harm the IDF troops.

The defense minister reviewed the latest events in Lebanon. This was reported to the Cabinet in its capacity as the Ministerial Committee on Security Affairs.

The Cabinet approved in principle the Flomin report on turning Elat into a free trade zone. The Ministerial Committee on Economic Affairs will examine the detailed proposals and will submit them to the Cabinet plenum for endorsement. [end recording]

Responsibility for Beirut Explosion Denied

TA091913 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 9 Mar 85

[Text] Cabinet Secretary Dr Yosef Beilin this evening vehemently denied allegations emanating from Beirut that Israel is responsible for the explosion of the booby-trapped car which resulted in the death of 80 people and over 200 people wounded. The Cabinet secretary stated that Israel has not and will never adopt abominable terrorist methods.

Moda'i Optimistic About Getting U.S. Aid

TA080534 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 8 Mar 85

[Text] At present there is no American pledge to grant Israel emergency economic aid. This has emerged from the meeting in Washington yesterday between Finance Minister Yitzhaq Moda'i and U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz. More from Connie Lon in Washington:

[Begin recording] [Lon] After a full day of meetings and a large party at the Israeli ambassador's residence tonight, Finance Minister Moda'i said he is optimistic about the additional aid:

[Moda'i] The general understanding is there, and I'm quite confident that there will be found a way whereby the administration will recommend for Israel the transitional extra aid for the current budget year.

[Lon] Would that be the $700 million figure?

[Moda'i] I can't reply to that question. I gave you what I could.

[Lon] Moda'i also said Secretary Shultz gave him a message for the prime minister, but he would not divulge the content. [end recording]

Further on Moda'i Statement

TA090554 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT Mar 85

[Text] Finance Minister Yitzhaq Moda'i says the U.S. Administration has agreed in principle to grant Israel additional economic aid, but the method, timing, and figures, he said, will have to be worked out by the parties this week. Moda'i met last week in Washington with Secretary of State George Shultz and was told that the U.S. was not yet willing to provide emergency assistance and that Israel had to introduce more stringent economic measures to heal its economy. But Congressional sources told REUTER they expected Israel would receive $1.2 billion in 1986, as it is receiving this year, plus a one-time emergency allocation of $1.5 billion over 2 years. But the sources said they expected the announcement of the aid package to be announced only after Egyptian President Mubarak, who is also seeking increased U.S. aid, ends his trip to Washington.

Officials Express 'Displeasure' On U.S. Pressure

TA081435 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 8 Mar 85 p 5

[Report by Ilan Kfir and Washington-based Leon Hadar]

[Excerpt] The U.S. President will keep the promise he made to Prime Minister Shim'on Peres during their tete-a-tete last October in Washington. He will grant Israel emergency aid if its foreign currency reserves drop drastically. This was reported last night by senior political sources in Jerusalem.

Israeli officials at the senior political level expressed displeasure at the pressure senior officials in the U.S. Administration are putting on Finance Minister Yitzhaq Moda'i to implement a tougher economic policy. Peres recently told the Americans that Israel intends to implement all the economic decisions the government recently made. Yesterday in Jerusalem some people expressed the opinion that some U.S. State Department officials are taking a more severe attitude toward Israel, which is not in line with President Reagan's attitude.

Last night Jerusalem was still waiting for the report on the results of Moda'i's talk with Secretary of State George Shultz.

Yesterday Moda'i said in Washington that he hoped to leave the city today with at least a U.S. promise that if Israel reaches the "red line" in terms of its foreign currency reserves, the United States will come to its aid and grant it emergency aid. In his talk with Israeli journalists in Washington, the minister nevertheless pointed out that he does not rule out the possibility that in his second discussion today with U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz the Americans will agree to specifically promise us a $1.5

billion emergency grant. Of this, Israel will receive $800 million this year, and the remainder during the next fiscal year.

Ministers React to U.S. Decision on Emergency Aid

TA081133 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 8 Mar 85 p 1

[Report by Yehoshi Me'iri]

[Text] Cabinet ministers were not surprised by the delay in the U.S. decision to grant Israel emergency aid. A government source told *HA'ARETZ*: "The Americans know that we are on the verge of collapse." The Prime Minister's Office stated that no reaction would be released until all the facts have been received.

Economics and Planning Minister Gad Ya'aqobi told *HA'ARETZ* last night that he did not know that the goal of Moda'i's trip to the United States was to obtain emergency aid. "I am not surprised, but there was no expectation tha this would indeed be achieved," Ya'aqobi said.

Yesterday, however, a government source said: "I have no doubt that we will ultimately receive the necessary aid." This source emphasized the Americans are aware of the gravity of Israel's economic situation, adding that in his opinion, the necessary aid will be obtained after Egyptian President Husni Mubarak leaves the United States.

"The Americans do not want us to collapse but know this is bound to happen soon. They are aware that foreign currency reserves are dwindling and, if this process continues, foreign residents' deposits in Israeli banks will decrease," the same source said.

Minister 'Ezer Weizman yesterday refused to address himself to the issue, expressing the opinion that not everything has been concluded yet and one should still wait and see what will be achieved in Moda'i's final meeting in Washington.

Minister Yiga'el Hurvitz said yesterday: "I hope the Americans will ultimately respond positively." Minister Hurvitz added that it is truly regrettable that we should hear such sharp and correct criticism from the Americans. "It is a pity we cannot do what is necessary without being subject to this criticism," Hurvitz said.

Disputes Over Free Trade Accord To Be Discussed

TA080645 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0600 GMT 8 Mar 85

[Excerpt] Our correspondent says that Israel appended a letter to the free trade zone accord, saying that in the future, too, the parties will continue to discuss disputed points. The accord will be brought to the Knesset Finance Committee for approval shortly.

ALGERIA

Embassy in Burkina Faso Denies Proposals on SDAR

AB011405 Ouagadougou Domestic Service in French 1300 GMT 1 Mar 85

[Communique issued by the Embassy of the Democratic and Popular Republic of Algeria in Burkina Faso — date not given]

[Text] For some time now, there has been an increasing number of articles and press agency dispatches alleging that Algeria has reportedly made a proposal relative to internal autonomy in Western Sahara and rejected by the Kingdom of Morocco.

The Embassy of the Democratic and Popular Republic of Algeria strongly denies such unfounded information and reiterates Algeria's constant position on the Western Sahara problem. Algerian has shown and will continue to show its readiness to find a just and lasting solution to the problem and it has spared no effort to this end. Such a solution must, however, be based on the principles that Algeria has spelled out on many occasions.

Algeria maintains that any solution to the Western Sahara problem must conform to Resolution 104 of the 19th OAU summit and Resolution 3940 of the 39th session of the UN General Assembly. Algeria is convinced that no solution can be found to the Saharan problem without due consideration to the national and international reality of Western Sahara as evidenced by the continuous sacrifices and diplomatic successes of the Saharan people. Since the OAU has already defined and named the parties concerned in this conflict, Morocco must open direct negotiations with the SDAR in compliance with the pertinent resolutions of the OAU and the United Nations. Lastly, Algeria, which gives unconditional support for all just causes in the world, strongly believes that only the Saharan people are qualified to make free and unhampered decisions on their destiny.

LIBYA

Economic, Scientific Agreement Signed With PRC

LD101632 Tripoli JANA in English 1500 GMT 10 Mar 85

[Text] Tripoli, Jumada Thani 17, March 10, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — The proceedings of the meetings of the second session for the Joint Libyan Arab-Chinese Committee for the Economic, Trade, Scientific and Artistic Cooperation were signed in Tripoli at noon today. Representing Jamahiriyah was the secretary of the General People's Bureau for Communication and Marine Transport, and representing China was the Minister of Railways Chen Puru .

The agreement contained the increase and development of cooperation in various fields especially transportation, communication, residence, light industries, dams, transportation of water, fishers [as received] in pure and salty waters. In addition it contained the development of cooperation in the media, education, health, environment protection, athletics and joint investment.

Mr Puru expressed his appreciation in the great development of various fields of life achieved by the Libyan people, following the signing of the agreement.

PRC Delegation Ends Visit

LD102155 Tripoli JANA in English 1812 GMT 10 Mar 85

[Text] Tripoli, Jumada Thani 17, March 10, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — The minister of railways, Chen Puru, in the People's Republic of China, and the accompanying delegation, left Tripoli this afternoon after participating in the second session proceedings of the joint Libyan Arab-Chinese Committee for Economic, Scientific and Artistic Cooperation.

PRC Ambassador Presents Credentials 9 Mar

LD091935 Tripoli JANA in English 1655 GMT 9 Mar 85

[Text] Tripoli, Jumada Thani 16, March 9, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — The general secretary of the People's Committee for the Foreign Liaison Bureau received this morning the credentials of Mr Yang Huazhang, the new Chinese ambassador to the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah.

The Chinese ambassador gave his credentials and expressed at the outset the greetings of the president of the People's Republic of China to the leader of the revolution, and his wishes to the Libyan Arab people for the development and progress affirming the importance of consolidation and development of cooperation between the two friendly countries. He said: "I feel a great joy, representing my country to this brave people which leads the struggle against imperialism and colonization in all forms, and we highly appreciate the achievements of the Libyan people in various fields and its continual struggle towards construction and building."

He added: We in China consider Libya one of the developing countries aiming at development. We appreciate also its important role in foreign policy and through the Nonaligned Movement in resisting colonization, Zionism, imperialism, and racism. He also affirmed his country's strong desire in developing its relations with Libya in various fields towards the common benefit of the two friendly people, assisting in pushing forward the steps of cooperation.

The general secretary of the People's Committee for the Foreign Liaison Bureau expressed, in his response, the importance of the joint action towards the consolidation of cooperation in all fields. He said: We look forward towards developing the bilateral relations to the furthest limits and we also appreciate the role of China against imperialism and racism.

Irish Minister of Industry Arrives in Tripoli

LD092028 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1820 GMT 9 Mar 85

[Text] Tripoli, 9 Mar (JANA) — The Irish minister of industry, trade, and tourism, John Bruton, arrived in Tripoli this evening together with the accompanying delegation on a visit to the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah.

Tunisian National Economy Minister Arrives 9 Mar

LD092259 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1830 GMT 9 Mar 85

[Text] Tripoli, 9 Mar (JANA) — Tunisian National Economy Minister Rachid Safr arrived in Tripoli this evening together with an accompanying delegation. On his arrival the Tunisian minister told JANA that his visit to the Jamahiriyah falls within the framework of consolidating economic integration between the two fraternal countries.

Cuban Minister Meets Foreign Liaison Secretary

LD091831 Tripoli JANA in English 1650 GMT 9 Mar 85

[Text] Tripoli, Jumada Thani 16, March 9, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — The secretary of the People's Committee for the Foreign Liaison Bureau met this afternoon with the Cuban minister of state, Levi Farah, who is on a visit to the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah.

The two sides discussed in their meeting bilateral relations and means and ways to consolidate and promote cooperation relations in all fields for the common interest of the two friendly peoples.

Mr Levi Farah expressed his country's admiration to the role being played by the Libyan Arab people and the leader of the revolution in supporting liberation movements and confronting all forms of domination which imperialism and racism are trying to impose on other peoples.

JANA: Numayri Forces Mutiny in Western Equatoria

LD101732 Tripoli JANA in English 1443 GMT 10 Mar 85

[Text] Khartoum, Jumada Thani 17, March 10, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — A rebellion within stooge Numayri's forces in the camp of Kajo Kaji in the governorate of Western Equatoria near the Zairean borders, has taken place.

During the rebellion, pro-Numayri elements in the camp have been liquidated. The revolutionary rebellious forces withdrew and joined the Sudanese People's Liberation Army with all of their arms and weapons.

SUDAN

President Numayri Addresses Nation 10 Mar

JN101252 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1030 GMT 10 Mar 85

[Text] Khartoum, 10 Mar (SUNA) — President Numayri has affirmed that the Muslim Brotherhood group had sought to undermine the revolution's great development achievements by instigating unres. and strikes and by attempting to halt the process of production.

In a speech addressed to the Sudanese people this morning, President Numayri added that the motives behind this rancor were the revolution's achievements since its early years. They expected to claim credit for solving the southern region crisis, striking at the Communist Party, and for the development achievements for their organization and leadership. Their ultimate dream was that the great achievement — the application of Islamic Shari'a — would be attributed to them, especially since they claim they are advocates and protectors of Islam. What was revealed to us confirm that they are the people farthest from Islam and are among those who are most ignorant and hostile to Islam.

President Numayri said that the disbanded Muslim Brotherhood followed a fanatical and extremist approach, used religion for political purposes, and constantly sought to seize power. They used many methods to achieve their ends. They used several guises and names such as the Islamic Movement, Islamic Group, and Islamic Orientation. They imitated the disbanded Community Party's organized approach and established several branches represented by religious and sectarian parties.

President Numayri said that their principal objective was to seize power. He said that they followed an approach of manipulation, apparent participation, and containment. They would then seize power by offering a suitable alternative at the appropriate time. He said that their plan, which they had actually initiated, was exposed. Clearly, the revolution had no option other than to stand behind the people and strongly confront this obstacle.

In his speech to the nation this morning, President Numayri said that this group had affirmed during its meetings that the role of the Mujahid Imam ended by the actual application of the Islamic Shari'a and that the Mujahid Imam has to be replaced by a Muslim scholar, in order to perpetuate their designs aimed at oppressing the people in the name of religion. President Numayri said that their documents and records confirmed that this group was seeking to achieve its vile objectives under the slogan of comprehensive Islamic modernization, the Sunni approach and Sufist fact.

President Numayri affirmed that this group adopted several methods to undermine the government from within. They resorted to circulating malicious rumors and scorned all those who opposed their political course. President Numayri added that this group had actively and effectively infiltrated the legislative, judicial, executive, and economic bodies in order to promote their designs. They also intensified their activities within the revolution's political, social, and educational organizations and even within the regular Armed Forces. President Numayri explained that this group began sowing seeds of sedition and division among brothers in the south, the Beja people in the east, and the people in the west by supporting the so-called Sonile secessionist movement. He indicated that this group openly declared, especially from the mosques, that national unity is a false slogan and achievement because real national unity according to them cannot be completed until Islam spreads in the south. President Numayri said that by doing so they relinquished one of the most noble of all Islamic values, namely that Islam honors and respects the beliefs of the peoples of the divine books [Jews and Christians].

President Numayri explained that this strange claim is merely an approach aimed at destroying the pillars of national unity, which is one of the revolution's greatest achievements. President Numayri added that, in order to complete this plan, the group

infiltrated Islamic banks in order to control the national economy and to benefit from the privileges granted to these banks after the Islamization of the banking system. He said that this group resorted to monopolizing essential food commodities such maize, and when the people realized the cause of the maize crisis they resorted to monopolizing fava beans.

President Numayri said that the ordinary citizen began to feel the effects of this monopoly in the price of oil, and some banks shut their doors to every citizen except those affiliated to this group, whose members, even destitute ones, began to appear wealthy. He stressed that the revolution possesses documents confirming that these deeds are far from Islam and its teachings.

In his statement to the nation over the radio this morning, President Numayri said that this group's economic scheme was not confined to monopolizing some commodities but continues to tamper with foreign currency and collect hard currencies, a matter which causes a deficit in these currencies.

President Numayri stressed that this group is built on a paramilitary structure comprising squads, companies, and cells and that it held training courses in the use of stones, clubs, iron bars, and knives. He pointed out that this group adopted methods to insure its military activity and used ciphers, code names, and secret surveillance. He added that this group managed to bring weapons into the country from some countries that claim to adopt Islam and work to export its Islamic revolution to other countries. He said this paramilitary organization and perfect training were meant to guarantee the implementation of their scheme by force in case the method of appeasement, penetration, and containment failed.

President Numayri announced that this group used students as soldiers to confront the government. He said: What happened at Khartoum University was a plan to test the government's ability to confront their organization. He said that preserving the nation's entity is a historic responsibility which must not be relinquished or subjected to bargaining and outbidding.

President Numayri said he will issue proper decisons to preserve the nation's peace, security, stability, and united entity. He pointed out that he had made a pledge to God and people that he will safeguard the successful march of the revolution and protect the masses' gains from those who tamper with them or conspire against them. He stressed that the Sudanese people will remain the soldiers of God and Islam and will justly hoist the banner declaring that there is no God but Allah and will defend it with both blood and soul.

He said: We will always defend the May [revolution] accomplishments as manifested in national unity, huge development projects, and the application of Shari'a. He indicated that plotting against the revolution began with the containment attempts undertaken by the communists, who were destroyed in their strongholds when they clashed with the people in July 1971.

He added that the May revolution has marched along the path of complete bias toward the people and it was not a revolution of a sect or a group, nor was it a revolution of extraneous ideas and diabolical policies. The May revolution, he said, came to guarantee freedom and democracy and to destroy the strongholds of tribalism and sectarianism for the sake of protecting the unified Sudanese nation and upholding the banner of right and justice. He added that the plotters, prompted by blind tribal grudges, joined hands to confront the people once again, but the people's will triumphed in September 1975.

President Numayri stressed that the revolution achieved successes in all fields of development. As a result this great victory met with grudges and plots against the people's revolution. The people defeated the July 1976 armed invasion through their faith, steadfastness, and will. President Numayri stressed that these plots proved that the revolution did not foster hostility in any of these groups, but has always taken the position of defending people's freedom and rights, convinced that all citizens should really participate in the country's march toward construction and progress.

President Numayri explained that the May revolution has, since its inception, repudiated antagonism and established its policy on firm principles and on the conviction that the homeland belongs to everyone. Therefore, there is antagonism only against those who antagonize.

President Numayri added that national reconciliation confirms the spirit of good will and the desire to safeguard the homeland and its unity, security, and stability by uniting all efforts to improve the status of the homeland and achieve its progress and awakening.

The president said that the revolution has come as a true expression of the masses' feelings and aspirations — hence the gradual pursuance of the Islamic line through firm belief, farsightedness, resolution, and the solidarity of the people's masses.

The president added in his speech to the nation that the revolution has taken successive steps toward its great objective, as embodied in the application of Islamic Shari'a — a sublime objective in which we welcome everyone who faithfully wants to be in the vanguard of this great objective. The president explained that the objective is to build society by fulfilling man's duties to God. He said that the revolution's policy is essentially based on the belief of participating in every action that serves the homeland and the citizens.

President Numayri explained that the revolution has enthusiastically welcomed every intellectual contribution made during the phase of applying Islamic shari'a in the country. The president affirmed that the application experiment has produced positive as well as negative results. The revolution, he said, has surmounted the negative results, and the experiment is now in its second year. The president affirmed that the revolution will never deviate from its course. The president said he is determined to convey all the facts, in minute detail, to the people.

President Numayri announced that since [words indistinct] he always favored what was explicit over what was implicit. The reports kept coming, but he adhered to his stand that whoever shared responsibility with him believed in the regime's principles and charters. The president explained that the negligence of those reports became, through the years, a defense for that group,

whose hostility to the revolution and the people was not clear during the years of preaching the Islamic call. [sentence as received] President Numayri announced that he began to understand the true impact of those reports during the early days of the application of Islamic shari'a, and that the subject continued to obsess him for a long time. The president explained that he fought suspicion, because it is unfair to pass judgment on something doubtful. However, he said, documents later proved that any defense of that group was insupportable.

President Numayri asserted that this diabolical group wanted to rule and control the people through the people's most precious achievements. Through their active participation in applying God's law, they intended to prey on people's gains, pounce on centers of power, and rule the people in the name of religion. He said that these devious means were the results of their spite and rancor against the revolution, its leadership, and its achievements, adding that they had to work and plan in order to undermine the pillars of the revolution and to liquidate its leaders, headed by the president of the republic and his aides.

The president noted that [words indistinct] sincere translation of people's desire to abandon worn-out ideas, reject division and groupings, and renounce political wagering, which serve only the private interests of professional politicians and those who wagered on the people's interests with all [words indistinct] and aims. He pointed out that the people expressed their support and adherence to the revolution at its inception, and that they have maintained this overwhelming support. This, he added, has prompted devious plots against the people from the early years of the revolution. The president said that this group's diabolical plans were aimed at weakening the pillars of the government by casting doubt, spreading economic destruction, and paving the way to take over power after the containment. [sentence as received]

The president affirmed that Islam has nothing to do with a handful of men who exploit religion for their personal ends. He added that the May revolution is more mature and alert, and that it will confront its enemies.

SSU Supports President's Speech

JN101826 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1740 GMT 10 Mar 85

[Text] Khartoum, 10 Mar (SUNA) — The SSU General Secretariat has stressed its absolute support for the speech Ja'far Muhammad Numayri, president of the SSU and president of the Republic, addressed to the Sudanese people this morning. In his speech, the president disclosed attempts of containment and the Muslim Brotherhood's conspiracies against the people, their revolution, and their leadership.

The General Secretariat also stressed its firmness and adherence to the Islamic method, which the revolution has adopted and in which the masses believe. These masses adhere to revolution's objectives, charter, and leadership. This came during the emergency meeting the SSU General Secretariat held this morning under SSU Secretary General Muhammad 'Abd al-Qadir 'Umar al-Amin. He addressed the meeting, explaining the dimensions of the plot that is hostile to Sudan and its revolution. He also defined the current role of the General Secretariat in support of leader President Numayri's decision.

President Numayri Removes Officials From Posts

JN101739 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1731 GMT 10 Mar 85

[Text] Khartoum, 10 Mar (SUNA) — President of the Republic Ja'far Muhammad Numayri has issued a decision relieving Dr 'Abdallah al-Turabi of his post as presidential assistant for political affairs. Numayri issued another decision relieving 'Ali Tuhman Muhammad Taha of his post as rapporteur of the People's Assembly. He issued a third decision relieving Muhammad Adam 'Isa of his post as minister of state at the General Prosecutor's Office.

Dismisses Five Legal Advisers

JN101756 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1742 GMT 10 Mar 85

[Text] Khartoum, 10 Mar (SUNA) — President of the Republic Ja'far Muhammad Numayri has issued a decision dismissing the following legal advisers from the General Prosecutor's Office: Hafiz al-Shaykh al-Zaki, Dr Ibrahim Murghani, 'Abd al-Rahman al-Khalifah, Haj Adam Hasan al-Tahir, and Ilyas Muhammad 'Abdallah.

Removes Three Judges

JN101800 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1750 GMT 10 Mar 85

[Text] Khartoum, 10 Mar (SUNA) — President of the Republic Ja'far Muhammad Numayri has issued a decision dismissing the following judges: Dr al-Mukashifi Taha al-Kabbashi, Ahmad Mahjub Haj Nur, and Dr Ibrahim Khalid al-Mahdi.

More SSU Officials Relieved

JN111058 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1020 GMT 11 Mar 85

[Text] Khartoum, 11 Mar (SUNA) — In his capacity as SSU president, President Ja'far Muhammad Numayri issued a decision yesterday relieving Ahmad 'Abd al-Rahman Muhammad of his post as member of the SSU Central Command and the Executive Bureau of the Central Command; Dr Hasan 'Abdallah al-Turabi of his post as member of the Central Command; and Yasin 'Umar al-Imam of the People's Assembly chairmanship and of his post as member in the Central Command and the Executive Bureau of the Central Command.

MENA: Muslim Brotherhood Members Arrested

NC101821 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1530 GMT 10 Mar 85

[Excerpt] Khartoum, 10 Mar (MENA) — The Sudanese authorities today arrested 20 members of the Muslim Brotherhood in Sudan including Dr Hasan [name indistinct] of the Presidency for [illegible]ign Affairs; Muhammad Adam 'Isa, minister of state in the Public Prosecutor's Office; Hafiz al-Shaykh al-Zaki, head of the Al-Ifta' department in the Public Prosecutor's Office; Yasin 'Umar [words indistinct] of the People's Assembly and chairman

of the assembly's staff; Ahmad Mahjub al-Haj Nur, president of the Criminal Appeal Court in Khartoum; Ahmad 'Abd al-Rahman Muhammad, former minister of domestic affairs; 'Abd al-Rahim Hamdi, director of Barakah Bank and former deputy director of Faysal Bank; Muhammad Yusuf Muhammad, a lawyer; Muhammad Sadiq al-Karuri; Badr al-Jalil al-Nazil al-Karuri; and others.

The MENA correspondent in Khartoum has learned that these people are being detained in [words indistinct] prison in Darfur Province in western Sudan.

A Sudanese spokesman has affirmed that Sudan continues to apply Islamic law and that this action was carried out because of the one-upmanship assumed by this group, thus harming the spirit of Islamic law and Sudan's national and pan-Arab interests.

Radio SPLA: Government Forces Mutiny in Kajo Kaji

EA081628 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 8 Mar 85

[Text] And we have just received the following news from the front: According to reports reaching Radio SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Army] from Equatoria administrative area, the Sudanese government forces stationed at Kajo Kaji, near the Ugandan border, mutinied, took over the whole garrison of about 160 men and declared their loyalty to the SPLA yesterday. During the takeover one lieutenant and one administrative corporal were killed and another lieutenant is reported to have fled to Yei on foot. The Kajo Kaji mutiny and desertion to join the SPLA was led by Major Martin Mayel Majok.

Before deserting the garrison, Maj Martin Mayel and his revolutionary soldiers destroyed the garrison completely and took all the arms at the garrison, including anti-aircraft guns, 12mm [as heard] and 81mm mortars, (?Henckels) general purpose machine-guns, ND 42 machineguns, automatic rifles and all ammunition. It is worth mentioning that the mutiny took place at a time when two companies of paratroopers were on their to arrest Maj Martin Mayel, because the regime described him as a potential danger to the unity of the country.

According to a reliable source in Juba, two companies of paratroopers have also been dispatched to the area between Mungalla and Liria to lay ambushes on Maj Martin Mayel and his forces and the Army Command in Juba assesses that Maj Martin Mayel and his forces will move towards Mungalla and Jummayzah area to join SPLA forces there.

The SPLA High Command hereby warns Maj Martin of these machinations. The high command also appeals to the people of Yei and Juba Districts to receive the forces of Maj Martin Mayel as their true army.

In this connection, four sons of the area, who are highly placed in the SPLA, hereby make a special appeal to the citizens of western Eastern Equatoria Province to cooperate and help Maj Martin Mayel's forces. This appeal is made by Major Alfred Lado (Gore) [head of SPLA-SPLM department of ideology]; Captain Dominic (Aziri Sumugwa); James (Warinza) and (Scopus Loboro Kenyi Duku). Captain Dominic (Aziri Sumugwa) also appeals to his fellow freedom fighters in the border area to join the forces of Major Martin Mayel to enable them come to SPLA headquarters. The SPLA High Command also appeals to the youth of Equatoria in schools and villages to join the forces of Major Arok Thuon Arok [commanding officer of Crocodile Battalion] and Major Martin Mayel in their respective areas.

TUNISIA

Bourguiba Praises PSD, Says Enjoys Good Health

LD102216 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 10 Mar 85

[Excerpts] We would like to point the importance of the address yesterday by the supreme combatant, President Habib Bourguiba, at the end of the Destourian Socialist Party [PSD] Central Committee meeting. He expressed his satisfaction with and pride in the results of the committee's work and the rest of the PSD in shouldering its mission completely, 51 years after it was established.

The supreme combatant reassured the Tunisian people about his health, stressing that in spite of reaching 81 years of age, he is enjoying good health. The president pointed out that some newspapers keep mentioning the subject of his successor, and stressed that this is not imminent, and that the Tunisian Constitution specifies in Article 51 that the prime minister is the successor to the president so that the successor will be knowledgeable about affairs of state and not a newcomer. The prime minister has had experience in these affairs for many years. Therefore, when his turn comes, the people will know his abilities and value.

He said that Mr Mohamed Mzali is currently undertaking important tasks, including youth employment, and adopts wise positions, including his stance on the issue of relating wages to the increase in production, i.e. there is no increase in wages as long as there is no increase in production.

Prime Minister Comments on University Unrest

LD090950 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 8 Mar 85

[Excerpts] The Supreme Combatant President Habib Bourguiba at the Republican Palace in Carthage tomorrow will conclude the meeting of the Central Committee of the Socialist Dustur Party.

Party Secretary General Mohamed Mzali yesterday opened this meeting at party headquarters. Members of the government and of the Political Bureau, governors, and the secretaries general of the party coordination committees attended.

The prime minister analyzed the government's economic and social policies, and stressed that these policies are faithful to the options which President Habib Bourguiba adopted for the country since independence. However, the government does not hesitate to carry out some amendments imposed by the economic

situation, at the national and international levels. In this connection he pointed to the steady rise in the value of the dollar, the basic currency of international dealings, and its effect on the increased cost of our imports. He said that the best way to combat this phenomenon lies in limiting imports and increasing Tunisian exports in value, volume, and quality.

The party secretary general then analyzed the situation in the Tunisian universities. He reaffirmed that the overwhelming majority of students are serious youths who care deeply about their homeland and aspire to carry on with their studies in normal conditions. However, a minority belonging to various trends and ideologies is trying to impose its will on the students, professors and deans, using violent means to create chaos in the university and obstruct studies. He pointed out that the government pins its hopes on the maturity of university students and teachers and parents and on their appreciation of their duties so that the government can take the necessary measures for the reestablishment of calm and order in the universities and the protection of students who wish to study.

The prime minister reaffirmed that despite some disturbances which a minority is trying to expand, classes are continuing in all colleges and higher institutes. He noted that it is the government's responsibility to protect the serious majority against the trouble-making minority within the framework of the law and the respect of citizens' freedom under democracy.

Mohamed Mzali emphasized the continuation of the policy of consultation and dialogue between the government and the national organizations within the framework of fairness to the rights of every faction, the capabilities of the national economy, and the country's high interests, now and in the future. He underlined the good relations that exist between the government and the officials of these organizations. He pointed out that the government wishes to implement a policy of cooperation based on linking wage increases to the increase in the volume of production and the improvement of productivity.

The prime minister renewed the government's readiness to organize negotiations with the trade unions in order to realize equilibrium between wages and productivity.

Mohamed Mzali devoted part of his statement at the opening of the meeting of the Central Committee to talk about Tunisia's foreign policy. He said that every party member and every Tunisian should feel proud of Tunisia's foreign policy. He pointed out that the government's aim is to work with resolve and patience at internal and external levels to ensure Tunisia's high interests.

Following Mohamed Mzali's statement, Foreign Minister Beji Caid Essebsi spoke and presented to the participants clarifications about Tunisia's foreign policy, particularly our country's relations with the states of the Greater Arab Maghreb, and the progress this policy has achieved thanks to the directives of the head of state during the past 5 years following repeated contacts at the level of heads of state, prime ministers or ministers.

WESTERN SAHARA

SDAR Communique Claims 15 Moroccan Soldiers Killed

LD091446 Algiers APS in French 1200 GMT 9 Mar 85

[Text] SDAR, Liberated Territories 9 Mar (APS) — Forty Moroccan soldiers were put out of action recently — fifteen of them killed, — a Saharan Information Ministry Communique announced on Friday.

According to the communique, the fighters of the Saharan People's Liberation Army to commemorate the 9th anniversary of the proclamation of SDAR recently attacked three Moroccan military positions at Laagued, as well as two positions of the Moroccan troops at Rous Fedrat Edjari and Grayer Lehdid [last name as received]

The Moroccan troops entrenched at Tenouchad were also submitted to a shelling attack.

Algiers Notes Moroccan Casualties for February

LD091928 Algiers Domestic Service in French 1830 GMT 9 Mar 85

[Text] During February, 632 Moroccan soldiers were killed and 875 injured in attacks carried out by the Saharan Liberation Army against Moroccan positions entrenched behind the so-called defensive walls. This is the toll given by the Saharan Information Ministry.

ETHIOPIA

Mengistu Tours Rehabilitation Areas in West, Northwest

EA082058 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 1700 GMT 8 Mar 85

[Text] Comrade Mengistu Haile Mariam, Workers Party of Ethiopia [WPE] Central Committee secretary general, PMAC chairman, and commander in chief of the revolutionary Armed Forces, today inspected development institutions in and around Gonder town and rehabilitation work in Metema, during the course of which he also issued directives.

On arrival in Himora this morning, Comrade Mengistu was welcomed by Comrade Melaku Tefera, WPE Central Committee member and WPE first secretary of Gonder region, and regional party and government officials.

During his visit to the state farm's office 30 km from Himora town, our comrade revolutionary leader was briefed on Himora's agriculture.

On arrival at the rehabilitation center in Metema, Comrade Mengistu Haile Mariam was given a warm welcome by WPE cadres and representatives of various governmental and mass organizations, who chanted appropriate revolutionary slogans.

On arrival at the office of the Metema Rehabilitation Committee, the comrade secretary general and his high-level team were briefed by Comrade Melaku Tefera and the committee's first secretary on the rehabilitation work being done.

After inspecting activities at the rehabilitation village, such as house construction and other activities in all sectors and the services being rendered by the area relief and rehabilitation commission, Comrade Mengistu Haile Mariam directed that preparatory work be expedited and made more efficient and that work on feasibility studies needed for the agricultural sector and [word indistinct] of all sectors be stepped up.

Present during the tour were Comrade Fiseha Desta, WPE Central Committee Politburo member and secretary, and WPE politburo members and alternate members.

Returns to Addis Ababa

EA091941 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 1000 GMT 9 Mar 85

[Text] Comrade Mengistu Haile Mariam, Workers Party of Ethiopia [WPE] Central Committee secretary general, PMAC chairman, and commander in chief of the revolutionary Armed Forces, arrived in Addis Ababa this morning after completing his working tour of five western and northwestern regions.

During his tour of Gambela Province in the Ilubabor region, Asosa Province in the Welega region, Guraferda Province in the Kefa region, Ch'ilga Province and Metema district in the Gonder region, and Metekel Province in the Gojam region at the head of a group of WPE Political Bureau members and candidate members, our comrade revolutionary leader inspected work being done to implement the rehabilitation program for our drought-affected compatriots and also issued directives.

Comrade Mengistu Haile Mariam also inspected various development activities and issued revolutionary directives.

KENYA

SWAPO Leader Nujoma Stops Over En Route to Beijing

EA092145 Nairobi KNA in English 1857 GMT 9 Mar 85

[Text] Nairobi March 9 — The intensity of the liberation struggle in Namibia has given the racist Pretoria regime second thoughts, with whites now registering as SWAPO members, the SWAPO president Sam Nujoma has said.

Addressing a press conference at the Jomo Kenyatta International Airport during a stop-over today on his way to Beijing, China, Mr Nujoma said the white minority have realized they cannot cope with the intensity of the liberation struggle and they are nearly giving up, he said.

Saying that freedom is at hand, this year if possible, Mr Nujoma noted the regime is no longer able to put down the resistance. He attributed this to SWAPO's political influence which has widely spread and everybody involved. People are determined that we win, he said, and they are providing shelter, foodstuff and all that is needed to win the struggle, he said.

He said SWAPO will quash the racist plan to launch a new unilateral declaration of independence (UDI) in June this year, because we know the puppets who will participate in this plan, Mr Nujoma declared.

On the Cuban troops pullout as a prerequisite for Angolan independence, Mr Nujoma called on the United States to talk to Cuba, which is just 90 km away, instead of bringing preconditions to Angola, he said. The delaying tactics by imperialist powers will be overcome.

He thanked all frontline states for the political and material support SWAPO receives, and cited Kenya as a fine example of a people's struggle for independence in the sixties and its success. Kenya's example has really encouraged us, he noted. He sent greetings to President Moi, the government and the ruling party KANU.

Nujoma on Namibian UDI

EA101548 Nairobi KNA in English 1015 GMT 10 Mar 85

[Text] Nairobi, March 10 — The South African Government is planning to launch unilateral declaration of independence (UDI) in Namibia by June this year, the SWAPO President, Sam Nujoma, disclosed in Nairobi last night. Mr Nujoma said South Africa intends to use its few puppets in Namibia to announce fake independence in that country.

The SWAPO leader, who was addressing a press conference at the Jomo Kenyatta International Airport, told newsmen that the UDI will not be accepted by the people of Namibia, and should the UDI appear, SWAPO will crush it.

Mr Nujoma said that the South African president, Pieter Botha, was now operating like the notorious German Nazi leader Adolf Hitler. He said innocent Namibian children and women have been killed or tortured for nothing, and blacks were being put in concentration camps similar to those of Nazi Hitler.

On the linkage of the granting of independence to Namibia with the withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola, Mr Nujoma said the SWAPO, the OAU, the nonaligned movement and the United Nations had all opposed that linkage, but the South African Government and its imperialist friends in the West had been clinging to it.

Mr Nujoma, who made a 1-night stopover in Nairobi on his way to the People's Republic of China, said that on the 4th of this month, the South African Government announced imposition of a security zone in Namibia, because the racist government was scared by the SWAPO's intensification of the liberation war.

He said the police can shoot on sight the Africans defying the curfew order in the security districts in Namibia under the emergency announced in March 4.

He said despite constant threats from the racist government, the frontline states had commitment to help Namibia achieve independence.

Mr Nujoma charged that the South African Government was working out ways of recruiting the whole Namibian black adult men population into the military because SWAPO had intensified war throughout the country.

He said the South African Government at present had 100,000 troops in Namibia, and the situation in Namibia was now very critical.

He observed that the whole of Namibian population had now rallied behind SWAPO, and he was hopeful that Namibia can get independence even this year.

Mr Nujoma said the economy in Namibia has gone down, and exploitation of man by man is what was prevailing.

He thanked President Moi, the government and the people of Kenya for the continued assistance SWAPO has been getting from Kenya.

Mr Nujoma was received at the airport by deputy secretary and head of African and OAU desk in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mr Omar Fakir, and the Chief of Protocol Dennis Afande.

Nujoma was accompanied by three SWAPO officials.

TANZANIA

Nigerian Foreign Minister Continues Visit

Funds to OAU Liberation Group

AB081104 Lagos International Service in English 0830 GMT 8 Mar 85

[Text] Nigeria has again reaffirmed her commitment to the total liberation of Africa from colonialism and apartheid. The minister of external affairs, Dr Ibrahim Gambari, stated this in Dar es Salaam while presenting a cheque for over $4,000 to the OAU Liberation Committee. The amount is a balance of Nigeria's total contribution to the Liberation Committee for the 1984-85 fiscal year. Dr Gambari appealed to African countries that had not met their financial obligations to the committee to do so without further delay. The minister gave the assurance that Nigeria would continue to give financial assistance to Frontline States and liberation organizations until apartheid and colonialism were eradicated from Africa.

Receiving the cheque, the assistant executive secretary of the committee, Mr (Edouard Inat), thanked Nigeria for her support to liberation struggle in the continent. He remarked that Nigeria was one of the few countries that had made their full payments to the committee for the 1984-85 fiscal year. Mr (Inat) gave the assurance that the money would be used judiciously. He described the visit of the minister to Tanzania as an inspiration not only to the Frontline States but also to the OAU Liberation Committee.

Meets With Nyerere, Departs

EA081156 Dar es Salaam External Service in English 1000 GMT 8 Mar 85

[Text] Dar es Salaam — Dr Ibrahim Gambari, the Nigerian foreign minister, has left for home after delivering a special message to OAU Chairman President Nyerere from the Nigerian leader, Major General Muhammad Buhari.

Speaking to reporters before his departure, Dr Gambari said the message covered developments in West Africa, including Chad and the Saharan Arab Democratic Republic, and the ways to strengthen the OAU. On the South Africa situation, he said Africa is now more confident of victory than ever before following the recent uprising against apartheid in South Africa. He said the resistance to apartheid is encouraging. Speaking about the Nkomati Accord between Mozambique and South Africa, he said it (?was no incentive) to other African states and the accord is now diplomatically putting South Africa on the defensive. He said African states should take advantage of this situation to intensify the struggle to eliminate apartheid.

On Nigeria, Dr Gambari said there are still a lot of problems and the government is trying to enforce discipline in the management of its economy.

CAMEROON

CAR Minister Meets Biya, Comments on Chad Ties

AB081400 Yaounde Domestic Service in French 1200 GMT 8 Mar 85

[Text] A special CAR envoy, Lieutenant Colonel Christophe Grelombe, was this morning received in audience by President Paul Biya. Mr Grelombe, who is the CAR minister of interior, was carrying a message from President Andre Kolingbe to his Cameroonian counterpart. After his audience, the CAR envoy answered questions from Christophe Alain:

[Begin recording] [Grelombe] I am bearer of a message from General Andre Kolingba, chairman of the Military Committee for National Redress and head of state, to his brother President Paul Biya. The two countries are seeking to improve economic and other relations between our two countries.

[Alain] It is now known that the next Cameroonian National Union Party's congress will take place 21-24 March in Bamenda. Does your visit have something to do with this congress?

[Grelombe] I am aware of the upcoming congress, but my visit has (?a different) purpose.

[Alain] Press reports have recently mentioned Chadian soldiers attacking a Chadian refugee camp in the north of your country. What exactly happened?

[Grelombe] I call this disinformation because it is completely different from what actually happened. Relations between Chad and the CAR are still excellent. We respect the territorial integrity of other countries, and both countries try to preserve this territorial integrity, both in the CAR and in Chad. [end recording]

CHAD

President Habre Begins Tour of Southern Provinces

AB091514 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 1330 GMT 9 Mar 85

[Excerpts] The most important news today is of course the visit which the president of the Republic, El-Hadj Hissein Habre, is beginning today to the southern part of the country. In fact, the head of state left Ndjamena this morning for the Prefecture of Moyen Chari, on the first leg of a tour that will take him to Logone Oriental, Logone Occidental, Moyo-Kebbi, and Tanjile Provinces. The visit to the countryside, which is the second following the one he made from 9 to 10 February to Ouaddai Province, is aimed at strenghtening national reconciliation embarked upon since the advent of the Third Republic in July 1982.

Radio Bardai: Biltine in Hands of FAN 'Mutineers'

AB082130 (Clandestine) Bardai Chadian National Radio in French 1800 GMT 8 Mar 85

[Text] Two FAN fighters have just defected to our forces with their (Venera) truck equipped with a 23mm gun, while another one did the same with a vehicle equipped with a 106mm gun.

Meanwhile, we have (?also) just learned that Biltine is now in the hands of the mutineers.

ZAIRE

Minister Notes 'Disturbances' in Kasai Region

AB091226 Paris AFP in French 1139 GMT 9 Mar 85

[Text] Kinshasa, 9 Mar (AFP) — Disturbances broke out on 5 March in the locality of Mupompa (250 inhabitants), situated in the Kasai Oriental region (in the central part of the country), Zairian Information Minister Ramazani Baya announced on Friday evening in his report on the weekly Cabinet meeting deliberations.

The minister, who did not specify the nature of the disturbances nor whether there were victims, pointed out that these incidents were "the handiwork of persons acting on the orders of former parliamentarian Tshisekedi wa Malumba," who has been relegated to his (?constituency) in the same region.

Mr Ramazani added that among the perpetrators of these incidents were in particular two other former parliamentarians, also relegated to their home villages. They are Makanda Mpinga and Ngalula Mpandanjila who, he pointed out, were caught drafting tracts "aimed at disturbing public order" and against whom administrative measures — he did not specify them — have been taken.

The situation in the Mupompa area led the government to relieve Kasai Oriental Governor Konde Vila Ki Kanda, accused of "grave weaknesses" and "unpardonable negligence," of his functions. Disciplinary action will be taken against him.

He was replaced on the same day by Mananga Ditoka Polo, a former minister of mines and energy, Mr Ramazani announced.

CAPE VERDE ISLANDS

FRG's Genscher Stops Over, Meets Foreign Minister

LD101915 Hamburg DPA in German 1716 GMT 10 Mar 85

[Excerpt] Sal/Cape Verde, 10 mar (DPA) — Federal Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher met with Cape Verde Foreign Affairs Minister Silvino Manuel da Luz in the town of Sal today. During a stopover on a trip to South America, Genscher had a 2 and 1/2 hour talk with Da Luz centered on African issues such as the situation in southern Africa and in the Sahel region.

Genscher inquired in particular about the possibility of further mediation by the Cape Verde Government in the conflict between South Africa and Angola. He also expressed his high regard for the "true nonalignment" and the "genuine independence" of Cape Verde.

GHANA

Rawlings Sees 'Parasitic' Relations Within ECOWAS

AB091042 Accra Domestic Service in English 0700 GMT 9 Mar 85

[Text] The chairman of the PNDC [Provisional National Defense Council], Flight Lieutenant Jerry John Rawlings, has urged member-countries of ECOWAS to stop what he described as their parasitic relations within the community. He said some of these practices make it rather very difficult for the community to (?march) forward in efforts to foster cooperation and economic development in the subregion. Flight Lt Rawlings said this when the new executive secretary of ECOWAS, Mr Momodu Munu, called on him at the Castle, Osu, last night.

The chairman noted that even though things are difficult for all the member states, the secretariat has to be forceful in terms of drawing the attention of members to some of their actions. Flight Lt Rawlings made it plain that Ghana is making her financial contributions to the community at a great political cost, adding we are doing the best we can.

Mr Munu briefed Flight Lt Rawlings on the achievements and failures of ECOWAS. On the credit side, the executive secretary said a number of landmarks have been achieved by the community in the areas of peace and good-neighborliness. He also mentioned protocols on nonaggression and mutual assistance in defense matters. In the area of trade, Mr Munu said his secretariat has worked on common customs regulations and forms. He said what is needed now is its implementation. The executive secretary hinted that the first phase of the protocol on the free movement of persons has been launched. On communication, Mr Munu hoped that within the next 2 years, all the 16 capitals of the subregion will be linked by automatic telecommunications.

Mr Munu said one of the major problems that is crippling the community is the nonpayment of contributions and the failure to ratify protocols. He noted that the subregion has 42 intergovernmental organizations and this leads to confusion, duplication, and wasting of scare human and financial resources. Mr Munu assured that the community is trying to phase our a number of them to make the ECOWAS strong.

The secretary for finance and economic planning, Dr Kwesi Botchway, was present at the meeting.

Botchway Says Economic Policies Not Dictated by IMF

AB100847 Accra Domestic Service in English 0700 GMT 10 Mar 85

[Excerpt] The secretary for finance and economic planning, Dr Kwesi Botchway, has made it clear that the government's economic policies are not being dictated by the IMF. He said such accusations to this effect are made by opponents of the government who have no alternative to offer.

Dr Botchway was speaking at the opening of the National Secretariat of the Committee for the Defense of the Revolution in Accra. He said if there should be any accusations at all, these should be based on the government's sensitivity to the welfare of workers and the pumping of more money into state corporations which do not make any impact on the economy. For example, the gold mining corporation could not produce to meet their own salaries, but lives on 140 million cedis overdraft monthly. These huge sums, Dr Botchway said, could have been used on roads, health, education, and water projects. He explained that the recent retrenchment of workers of the Cocoa Board was not dictated by the IMF. It was done to save funds.

The secretary advised Ghanaians not to depend on rumormongering. They should always check facts from government sources.

Dr Botchway also disagreed with those who say the PNDC [Provisional National Defense Council] has achieved nothing since it came to power.

Suriname To Establish Embassy in Accra

AB091451 Accra Domestic Service in English 1300 GMT 9 Mar 85

[Text] A special envoy of the Surinamese leader, Lieutenant Colonel Bouterse, flew back home today after participating in celebrations marking the 28th anniversary of Ghana's independence. While in the country, the envoy, Mr Herrenberg, also delivered a special message from Col Bouterse to Flight Lt Rawlings.

Speaking to newsmen just before he left, Mr Herrenberg, who is also the director of cabinet in the Bouterse administration, said his visit has enabled him to know more about the true events in the country. He said he held discussions with Mr Justice D.F. Annan, a member of the PNDC [Provisional National Defense Council] and chairman of the National Commission for Democracy, on the democratic processes being initiated their two countries.

Mr Herrenberg stressed the need for exchange programs between Ghana and Suriname in the fields of culture, education, and agriculture. He added that an accord establishing an embassy of Suriname in Accra will soon be signed. This, Mr Herrenberg said, will promote the interchange of information between the two countries and also events in West Africa and the Caribbean regions.

The envoy said the friendship existing between leaders of both countries should act as an impetus to bring the two countries together for a better exchange of revolutionary experiences. This, he said, will act as a base for South-South cooperation.

GUINEA

Joint Communique on Conte-Vieira Meeting

AB072222 Conakry Domestic Service in French 1945 GMT 7 Mar 85

[Joint communique on visit of delegation led by Guinea-Bissau President Joao Bernardo Vieira to Guinea issued in Kamsar on 7 March; read by the Guinean Ambassador to Guinea-Bissau Ndira Ndiaye — recorded]

[Excerpts] At the invitation of His Excellency Colonel Lansana Conte, chairman of the Military Committee for National Redress [CMRN] and president of the Republic of Guinea, His Excellency General Joao Bernardo Vieira, chairman of the State Council of the Republic of Guinea-Bissau, undertook a friendly and working visit to Kamsar, Republic of Guinea, on 7 March 1985, at the head of an important delegation.

During this working visit, the two heads of state held private talks during which they discussed bilateral and international cooperation and African problems in particular. After this meeting, the two delegations held a working session.

In their speeches, the two heads of state recalled once more the excellent relations existing between their two brother countries, their two peoples, and governments and reasserted their firm desire to give added impetus to their bilateral cooperation. On the recent decision by the arbitration court in the Hague on the delimitation of sea borders, the two heads of state clearly stated that the conflict was created by the two colonial regimes. They expressed satisfaction with the peaceful settlement of the matter and emphasized the need to strengthen their relations and to lay the foundation for the rational exploitation of the natural resources in the area in the interest of their two peoples.

The two heads of state expressed the need to reactivate the joint high commission for cooperation and to implement the cooperation projects adopted by the two countries with the aim of promoting exchanges in various areas. In addition, Presidents Vieira and Conte called for an opportunity to hold and increase working meetings between specialists and heads of departments of both countries.

The meeting between the two heads of state, during which they both shared similar views on the issues discussed, took place in an atmosphere of brotherhood and understanding.

At the end of his visit to the Republic of Guinea, His Excellency President Joao Bernardo Vieira expressed his sincere thanks to his brother and friend, His Excellency President Lansana Conte, for the warm and friendly welcome accorded to his delegation and himself. He invited the Guinean head of state to pay an official visit to the Republic of Guinea-Bissau. The Guinean Government, which was very touched by this sign of friendship and brotherhood, favorably accepted this invitation. The date will be fixed later through diplomatic channels.

Signed in Kamsar on 7 March 1985 by His Excellency Gen Joao Bernardo Vieira, chairman of the State Council, for the Republic of Guinea-Bissau; and by His Excellency Col Lansana Conte, chairman of the CMRN, president of the Republic, and head of state, for the Republic of Guinea.

MALI

Interior Minister To Leave for UN Drought Meeting

AB091448 Bamako Domestic Service in French 1300 GMT 9 Mar 85

[Text] The minister of interior, Lieutenant Colonel Abderhamane Maiga, will leave Bamako this evening for Geneva to represent our country at the UN conference on drought which will be held on 11 and 12 March.

NIGER

President To Attend UN Meeting on Drought

AB100850 Niamey Domestic Service in French 0600 GMT 10 Mar 85

[Text] His Excellency Brigadier Seyni Kountche, chairman of the Supreme Military Council, SMC, head of state and current chairman of the Permanent Interstate Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel, ICDCS, will leave Niamey this morning for Geneva to attend the conference on the urgent drought situation in Africa. The head of state will be accompanied by Dr Ari Ibrahim, minister of rural development; Ide Oumarou, minister of foreign affairs and cooperation; Sanni Bako, permanent secretary at the office of the SMC chairman and head of state; as well as the executive secretary of the ICDCS.

NIGERIA

Idiagbon Meets Romanian Deputy Prime Minister

AB082000 Lagos Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 8 Mar 85

[Text] Nigeria has again called on friendly countries to cooperate with her in the task of reviving the nation's economy. The call was made today in Lagos by the chief of staff, Supreme Headquarters, Major General Tunde Idiagbon, while exchanging views with the vice premier minister of Romania, Mr Ion M. Nicolae.

Gen Idiagbon noted that Nigeria and Romania had enjoyed cordial relations over the years and also held identical views on international issues. He implored Romania to improve on her trade relations with Nigeria. The chief of staff also said that Nigeria was prepared to cooperate with Romania in their bilateral trade relations; however, he expressed the need for Romania to reciprocate whatever concessions made by Nigeria.

Earlier, Mr Nicolae told the chief of staff that he was in the country to discuss ways of strengthening bilateral relations between his country and Nigeria.

Gambari Returns From Ethiopia, Tanzania 8 Mar

AB082025 Lagos Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 8 Mar 85

[Text] The minister of external affairs, Dr Ibrahim Gambari, returned to Lagos today after a 2-week special visit to Ethiopia and Tanzania. While in Addis Ababa, Dr Gambari led Nigeria's delegation to a meeting of the OAU Council of Ministers which prepared documents for the next special summit of heads of state and government. During his 3-day stay in Dar es Salaam, the minister delivered a special message from the head of state, Major General Muhammadu Buhari, to President Julius Nyerere, who is the current chairman of the OAU. Addressing newsmen at the Murtala Muhammed International Airport, Dr Gambari said the organization had set up a special emergency fund committee to assist drought-affected countries in Africa. The United Nations, he said, will meet on Monday to discuss the same problem. Dr Gambari also stated that sanctions would be imposed on member states of the OAU who had persistently failed to meet their financial obligations to the organization.

Press on Army's View of Budget, UK Extradition

Disagreement on Budget

AB091045 Lagos International Service in English 0830 GMT 9 Mar 85

[From the press review]

[Text] The *PUNCH* analyzes the views by the chief of Army staff in a paper he presented on the defense policy within the framework of national planning. The paper does not fully agree with the general that Army should take the largest portion of the nation's budget. The *PUNCH* believes that the economy must be sound enough to support it.

Extradition Review Welcomed

AB081101 Lagos International Service in English 0830 GMT 8 Mar 85

[From the press review]

[Text] Reports that the British Government is to radically review its extradition laws is closely examined by the *NATIONAL CONCORD*. The paper, in welcoming the move, says it finds it difficult to explain what it describes as foot-dragging by Britain over the Dikko issue. The *CONCORD* urges the Supreme Military Council to impress on the British Government that Britain has more to lose by keeping the fugitive.

SENEGAL

Guinea-Bissau Armed Forces Minister To Visit

AB091318 Dakar Domestic Service in French 0700 GMT 9 Mar 85

[Text] The second vice chairman of the State Council of Guinea-Bissau and minister of the Armed Forces is expected to arrive in Dakar at 0900. Iafai Camara, who will spend 1 day in Dakar, will be welcomed by Medoune Fall, our minister of the Armed Forces.

TOGO

Campaigns for Parliamentary Elections Begin 9 Mar

AB100946 Lome Domestic Service in French 0615 GMT 10 Mar 85

[Excerpts] Electoral campaigns for the 24 March parliamentary elections were officially kicked off yesterday throughout the country. Candidates to parliament may address the electorate to solicit their votes until 22 March.

On this occasion, the government calls on everyone to be conscientious of the need to safeguard our country's peace at all costs, to preserve the unity of the Togolese people, and to consolidate political stability in order to ensure the integral development of our country.

The government reminds the candidates to parliament that it is its wish to see order and discipline in the campaigns. The candidates are expected to do everything to carry out campaigns marked by seriousness and responsibility. Gone are the days of demagoguery and promises that will never and can never be carried out. Utopia must make way for realism in all fields.

The electorate must carry out their electoral duty in discipline, in scrupulous respect of person and property and with the greatest dignity. We must all demonstrate our political maturity because our people are politically aware, well known, and appreciated in the world, who seriously and resolutely embarked upon the path of development, thanks to the 13 January man, General Eyadema, and to the dynamism of the Rally of the Togolese People of which he is the founding chairman.

It will be recalled that 207 candidates are vying for the 77 seats of the next national assembly.

Frontline States Hold Summit in Lusaka 8 Mar

Leaders Arrive

MB081201 Lusaka Domestic Service in English 1115 GMT 8 Mar 85

[Text] Five leaders of Frontline countries, Tanzania, Botswana, Angola, Zimbabwe, and Mozambique, arrived in Lusaka for a day's summit this morning to discuss South Africa's destabilization of neighboring countries.

The first to arrive was Botswana President Quett Masire, followed by President Nyerere, who is leading a high-powered delegation. Angolan President Eduardo dos Santos, who is also leading a high-powered delegation, arrived an hour later. They were met at Lusaka International Airport by President Kaunda, Party Secretary General Humphrey Mulemba, SWAPO President Sam Nujoma, and other senior party and government leaders, and hundreds of chanting party militants dressed in national colors.

Mozambican President Samora Machel and Zimbabwean Prime Minister Robert Mugabe arrived in the same plane for the summit.

RSA 'Noncompliance' Denounced

MB081834 Lusaka Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 8 Mar 85

[Text] Frontline heads of state today denounced the Nkomati Accord between South Africa and Mozambique as a failure because of South Africa's noncompliance with the agreement.

The chairman of the Frontline heads of state, President Julius Nyerere of Tanzania, said that 1 year after the agreement had been signed, it had not achieved anything, because South Africa had not honored it. Briefing the press after a 1-day summit of Frontline heads of state at State House in Lusaka, President Nyerere also hit out at some of South Africa's backers who, he said, had always accused Mozambique of not cooperating on issues affecting the region.

Mwalimu Nyerere said he hoped that diehard pessimists and supporters of South Africa would be convinced of South Africa's role as the region's source of tension. He told the newsmen that the six Frontline heads of state had met to review developments in southern Africa in the past year, including South Africa's intransigence in the implementation of UN Resolution 435 on Namibia's independence, as well as her continued occupation of Angola.

The Frontline heads of state have all left for their respective capitals.

Support for Mozambique

MB081931 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1900 GMT 8 Mar 85

[Text] The Frontline countries have decided to give all necessary support to the People's Republic of Mozambique in view of the deterioration of the situation in the country as a result of the noncompliance with the Nkomati Accord by South Africa. This decision was taken in Lusaka today during the 1-day summit meeting attended by the presidents of Angola, Botswana, Mozambique, Tanzania, and Zambia, and the prime minister of Zimbabwe.

According to a statement made to AIM by an authorized source, the summit centered its attention on a single subject — the situation in Mozambique in the context of the Nkomati Accord. We have reached the conclusion that only one of the sides, that is, Mozambique, has been honoring the Nkomati Accord, the Tanzanian head of state, Julius Nyerere, who is also chairman of the Frontline countries, told journalists at the end of the summit. President Nyerere, who is also acting chairman of the OAU, said that the summit had also concluded that South Africa has been refusing to honor the Nkomati Accord.

This assessment, which was made a few days before the first anniversary of the signing of the accord between the Governments of Mozambique and South Africa, also prompted the Frontline heads of state to once again denounce the aggressive aims of the Pretoria regime. It was not Mozambique that caused the unrest taking place within South Africa. It is the Government of the Republic of South Africa that is carrying out a policy of destabilization of its neighbors, because aggressiveness is part and parcel of the apartheid policy, President Nyerere told journalists.

President Samora Machel arrived in Maputo this evening. The Mozambican presidential delegation included, among others, Joaquim Chissano, minister of foreign affairs, and Lieutenant General Armando Panguene, deputy minister of national defense and national political commissar of the People's Armed Forces for the Liberation of Mozambique.

ANGOLA

Dos Santos Swears In New Foreign Minister, Deputy

MB100916 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 0700 GMT 10 Mar 85

[Text] Comrade Jose Eduardo dos Santos, president of the People's Republic of Angola, swore in Comrade Afonso van Dunem "Mbinda" to the post of minister of external relations, and Comrade Fernando Franca van Dunem to the post of deputy minister of external relations in Luanda yesterday.

The Angolan head of state said that the appointments of a new minister and a deputy minister of external relations answers a series of concerns which were voiced in the last meeting of the heads of the diplomatic and consular missions of the People's Republic of Angola. President Jose Eduardo dos Santos said that he was sure that the newly appointed ministers will not hesitate to implement the resolutions for improving the efficiency of the Ministry of External Relations and making Angolan diplomats more active not only inside the country but also abroad.

The supreme Angolan leader pointed out that priority tasks are the improvement in the organization of all foreign affairs organizations, such as the successful holding of the nonaligned ministerial meeting to be held in Luanda in September. Comrade Jose Eduardo dos Santos said that a great test for the new minister and deputy minister lies ahead, with the active continuation of the preparatory work for the holding of the nonaligned ministerial meeting.

Dos Santos Leaves for Frontline States Summit

MB081338 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 1200 GMT 8 Mar 85

[Text] Comrade Jose Eduardo dos Santos, the chairman of the MPLA-Labor Party and president of the People's Republic of Angola, left for Lusaka, the capital of the Republic of Zambia, early this morning to take part in this year's first summit meeting of the Frontline States. At the summit, the heads of state from Frontline States will study means of intensifying international pressure on South Africa, in view of its nonimplementation of the pledges it undertook in the region.

One year after the signing of the Lusaka pledge with the Angolan Government, and contrary to what had been agreed upon, South African troops continue to occupy parts of the territory of the People's Republic of Angola. The South African occupationist contingent should have withdrawn from our country toward the end of March 1984. During the meeting in Lusaka, South Africa had also pledged to implement UN Security Council Resolution No 435/78, leading Namibia to independence. Until now, no significant step has been taken in this regard.

With regard to pledges undertaken with Mozambique in the Nkomati Accord, signed on 16 March 1984, which is almost a year ago, a similar situation is being observed. The Mozambican Government has been expressing its concern over the nonimplementation of the accord. Armed bandits continue to cross South African borders toward Mozambique, where they have been spreading terror and death. The South African Government itself has been unable to deny such accusations. President Pieter Botha has also recognized that the Lusaka pledges have not been respected, citing factors which have no basis in truth.

The head of state is accompanied by Comrade Afonso van Dunem "Mbinda," the minister of external relations; Venancio da Moura, the deputy minister of external relations; and his secretaries for judicial affairs and information.

Returns From Lusaka

MB090725 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 0500 GMT 9 Mar 85

[Text] Comrade Jose Eduardo dos Santos, the president of the Republic, has already returned to Luanda from Lusaka where he and the other heads of state and government of the Frontline States and the leaders of SWAPO and the ANC of South Africa assessed the degree of the implementation of the Lusaka Agreement and Nkomati Accord.

According to an informal statement made at the end of the meeting by President Julius Nyerere of Tanzania, the nonimplementation of the two accords by South Africa was the main issue of discussion at the Lusaka meeting. The summit meeting also referred to the development of the situation in southern Africa, the continued problems facing the region, and the occupation of Namibia by the Pretoria regime.

South Africa is still occupying southern Angola, President Julius Nyerere said, and noted that the Lusaka Agreement and the Nkomati Accord were part of the long diplomatic, economic, and political process mounted by the Frontline States for the restoration of peace in the region.

The Tanzanian statesmen also told newsmen that the first anniversary of the signing of the Nkomati Accord will be marked on 16 March. For this reason, he added, it was an excellent occasion to examine what the Nkomati Accord had brought about. We concluded that the Mozambican Government negotiated and signed the accord in good faith believing that South Africa would honor it by suspending its support for the bandits.

Drawing the attention of the international community to the issue, Julius Nyerere said that to those who believed that the tension in the region was caused by Mozambique, it is now clear that it is South Africa that continues to occupy Namibia and southern Angola and continues to recruit, train, and arm the bandits who infiltrate into Mozambique.

In his brief visit to Lusaka, President Jose Eduardo dos Santos was accompanied by Afonso van Dunem "Mbinda," the minister of external relations; Venancio da Moura, the deputy minister of external relations; the Angolan ambassadors to Tanzania and Zambia; and the secretaries in the office of the president for judicial affairs and information.

BOTSWANA

Masire Leaves for Frontline Meeting in Lusaka

MB081144 Gaborone Domestic Service in English 1110 GMT 8 Mar 85

[Text] The president, Dr Quett Masire, left for Lusaka this morning to attend a summit meeting of the Frontline States. The meeting will last 1 day and the president will return to Gaborone today.

Returns From Summit

MB090717 Gaborone Domestic Service in English 0510 GMT 9 Mar 85

[Text] The president, Dr Quett Masire, and his delegation arrived in Gaborone last night from Lusaka where they attended the 1-day summit of the Frontline States. The president's delegation included Dr. Gaositwe Chiepe, the minister of foreign affairs; Mr G. Garebamono, secretary in the ministry of external affairs; and Mr (Philite), private secretary to the president.

According to reports from Maputo, the meeting discussed, among other things, the failure of the South African Government to honor its agreement with Mozambique under the Nkomati Accord and with Angola through the Lusaka understanding.

MOZAMBIQUE

Nkomati Displeasure, Consideration of USSR Aid Cited

MB101030 Umtata Capital Radio in English 1000 GMT 10 Mar 85

[Text] There are widespread reports of top-level Mozambican dissatisfaction with the Nkomati Accord. It is believed the government of President Samora Machel is seriously considering calling on the Soviet Union to provide military aid to end the threat to the government from guerrillas of the Mozambique National Resistance movement.

Under the Nkomati pact signed almost a year ago, South Africa undertook to stop supporting the MNR, but in recent months top Frelimo officials have accused Pretoria of being unwilling or unable to enforce its side of the deal.

One South African newspaper reports that the MNR is now rumored to be receiving aid from Libya.

MNR Leader on Plans To Attack Maputo, Talks

AU072122 Paris AFP in English 2106 GMT 7 Mar 85

[By Marie Joannidis]

[Text] Paris, March 7 (AFP) — The Mozambique National Resistance (MNR) movement plans to mount a "final attack" by next May on the country's capital, Maputo, MNR Secretary-General Evo Fernandes said in an interview here today.

The rebel organization, which has been fighting Mozambique's left-leaning government since independence from Portugal in 1975, was now strengthening its siege of Maputo to "prepare the final attack by the rainy season, in May," he said.

Mr. Fernandes, who made a stop here during a tour of European capitals, said he was asking Western nations to cease providing food aid to the Mozambican authorities.

"This food aid, which supplies the needs of the Mozambican Army and is sold to the inhabitants of Maputo, only serves to prolong the agony of the people, because without it the government would fall," he said.

Mr. Fernandes said Western countries were thus guilty of "new deaths" in the southern African country.

He also said his organization remained open to negotiation, although South African-sponsored talks between the MNR and Frelimo, Mozambique's ruling party, broke down last October shortly after they began.

"Contacts to examine the possibility of renewed talks are continuing between us, the South Africans and Frelimo representatives," Mr. Fernandes said, adding that he had recently had such contacts in Pretoria.

"We are ready to negotiate while continuing with the war," he said.

But he recalled MNR conditions for any peace talks, saying that "without free and democratic general elections, there will be no peace in Mozambique and no talks on a peace agreement."

Mr. Fernandes, who arrived here today from South Africa, said the South African Government, and particularly Foreign Minister Roelof "Pik" Botha, was supporting the Mozambican Government in order to justify its internal policies to Western Nations.

The survival of regimes like those in Mozambique, Zambabwe and Angola means that South Africa "can thus tell them (Western countries) that since it is surrounded by Marxist regimes, it cannot make internal changes," he said.

Mr. Fernandes denied reports that his movement receives aid from both South Africa and Portugal, Mozambique's former colonial master.

He also denied that equipment was being air-dropped and delivered by boat to MNR forces in Mozambique.

"The Portuguese connection is a scapegoat being used by Mr 'Pik' Botha and taken up by Frelimo," he said.

Mr. Fernandes said his movement, which had "more than 20,000 men under arms," was supported by the Mozambican population.

"We do not permanently occupy towns so as not to provide military targets to government planes," he said.

Concerning foreigners killed by the MNR in Mozambique, where about 20 have died in recent months, he said his organization had repeatedly warned foreigners that they were at risk in the country, and it could not distinguish between soldiers and civilians when it attacked military convoys.

He said France could serve as an intermediary between the MNR and the government.

The movement was not only fighting Frelimo, "but also the foreign forces which support it — the Soviets, Cubans, East Germans, Zimbabweans and Tanzanians," he said.

Mr. Fernandes' stop in Paris, after which he is due to travel to Portugal, came nine days before the first anniversary of the non-aggression treaty signed by Mozambique and South Africa in Nkomati, on their common border.

Under the agreement, South Africa agreed to cease its earlier support for the MNR on condition that Mozambique stop supporting guerrillas of the African National Council of South Africa operating from its territory.

But the Mozambicans , who have been facing increased MNR attacks since the agreement was signed last March 16, have accused the South Africans of violating the accord.

SOUTH AFRICA

CITY PRESS Poll Reveals Support for ANC

MB080945 Johannesburg CITY PRESS in English 10 Mar 85 p 2

[Excerpt] Just two weeks after Law and Order Minister Louis le Grange told an American Journalist the African National Congress was losing popularity, representatives of the organisation have taken more than half the votes in the *CITY PRESS* Vote — 56 percent.

And while support for the banned organisation is clear, our voters' opposition to the Nationalist government and those working with it, or within its structures, goes even further — just 15 percent of the vote went to "moderates."

Without Inkatha leader Gatsha Buthelezi's 4.7 percent and the 4.1 percent of homeland leaders Cedric Phatudi and Enos Mabuza — both rode into the top 20 with the help of Inkatha voters — this figure dwindles to just over 2 percent.

And representatives of legal organisations, such as Azapo, the UDF and trade unions, operating outside government structures, between them took almost 28 percent — almost double the "moderates" figure.

An equally important factor is that, while the voters firmly rejected apartheid and strongly backed those most obviously combatting it, many — possibly even a majority — clearly saw a need for broad coalitions to rule South Africa.

SWAZILAND

Officials Hold Talk With OAU, ANC Delegations

OAU Group Welcomed

MB082004 Mbabane Television Service in English 1815 GMT 8 Mar 85

[Text] A high-powered delegation led by the minister for foreign affiars, Mr Mhambi Mnisi, welcomed another delegation from the OAU, the minister's office announced today. The OAU delegation came to continue discussions they held with the Swazi Government last year. Present at the meeting was the minister for labor and public service, Mr Mhlangano Matsebula; minister for the interior, Mr King Mtetwa; minister for defense and youth, Brigadier Fonono Dube; the principal secretary in the foreign affairs ministry, Mr Zacharia Mkhonta; and the assistant secretary, Mr Philemon Dlamini.

Members of the press were invited to take pictures during the welcoming speech, and were asked to leave thereafter.

[Begin Mnisi recording] Well, Brig Mbita and your delegation, on behalf of Her Majesty's Government, I wish to welcome you here at your home, in Swaziland. We have been informed that you were on your way — coming over — and I did inform the elders of the nation. They were so happy that you would be coming to continue the discussions which we had, and I sincerely hope that your coming in will help us to resolve some of the problems as sons and daughters of Africa, and I sincerely hope that your stay here in Swaziland will be a happy one.

And after our dicussions I am sure things will turn for the better, and I can assure you that here at home everybody has been happy that your coming here might resolve something which we feel should be resolved in this part of the world. So with these few remarks, I sincerely hope that we are going to have fruitful discussions, on behalf of my colleagues here, who have been also charged to come over and listen, and discuss with you and your delegation whatever we could agree to. So with these few remarks, I wish to welcome you all at home! [end recording]

The leader of the delegation, Brig Hashim Mbita, thanked the Swazi Government for their hospitality and their warm welcome.

[Begin Mbita recording] Mr Minister and members of the Government of the Kingdom of Swaziland, we are most grateful for the warm reception we have been given since our arrival, and we have come in the spirit of our continental organization to exchange views with the government here on matters of common concern, and we look forward to having fruitful discussions here, and we hope the positive approach that we are taking on this matter will help all of us to reach a common understanding in persuance of our common objectives. So we look forward to very fruitful discussions with you and the conditions that have been laid down at the climactic situation will hold to be auguring well for positive discussions. So we are very grateful to be here, and we do hope we shall leave here all with sufficiently lighter hearts. I thank you. [end recording]

Closed-Door Meeting Held

MB081724 Mbabane Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 8 Mar 85

[Text] The minister for foreign affairs, Mr Mhambi Mnisi, today held a marathon meeting behind closed doors with the OAU's Liberation Committee and Executive Committee members of the ANC of South Africa delegations. Welcoming the delegation led by Brigadier Hashim Mbita, Mr Mnisi expressed the hope that the discussions would resolve some problems and turn things for the better between the Swazi Government and the ANC. He said the elders of the nation were happy about the delegations coming to hold such significant talks. In response, Brig Mbita expressed similar hope that the talks were going to be fruitful and beneficial to both parties. The purpose of the talks is believed to be a second trial of settling the rift between the Swazi Government and the ANC.

Attending the meeting were minister of defense and youth, Brigadier Fonono Dube; minister of labor and public service, Mr Mhlangano Matsebula; minister of interior, Mr King Mtetwa; and the commissioner of police, Mr Majaji Simelane.

Concern Over ANC Remarks

MB090649 Mbabane Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 9 Mar 85

[Text] The executive secretary of the OAU Liberation Committee, Brigadier Mbita, last night held talks with the Swaziland delegation of ministers led by the minister of foreign affairs, Mr Mhambi Mnisi. The meeting was a follow-up to a previous meeting which Brig Mbita held with the Swaziland Government authorities late last year to discuss problems and misunderstandings between Swaziland and the ANC. Last night's meeting was held in a frank and cordial atmosphere. The Swaziland Government delegation strongly expressed its concern that the ANC had issued statements condemning the Swaziland Government without consultation and the verification of the facts.

Brig Mbiti's delegation included Mr Jose Sebastiao, chief liaison officer in Maputo, and present in the talks were senior officers of the ANC in the persons of Mr A. Masondo, and Mr J. Zuma. The Swazi delegation included the ministers of justice, Mr D. Matse; labor and public service, Mr M.S. Matsebula; defence and youth, Brigadier F. Dube; and interior and immigration, Mr King Mtetwa.

ZAMBIA

Kaunda on RSA 'Abrogation' of Nkomati, Lusaka Accords

MB090615 Lusaka Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 9 Mar 85

[Text] His Excellency President Kaunda has said that Zambia will support any Angolan and Mozambican decisions on the current situation in southern Africa following Pretoria's abrogation of the Nkomati and Lusaka peace agreements.

The president was speaking in Lusaka after a 1-day summit whose six heads of state and government condemned South Africa for its aggressive policies against neighboring states and its failure to honor the peace accords. Dr Kaunda also criticised the West for condoning South Africa's aggressive policies in the region by promoting the racist regime as peacemaker.

On Namibia, the president said the summit had noted that there has been no progress because of the insistence of the linkage of the withdrawal of Cuban troops in Angola to Namibia's independence by Pretoria and its allies.

ZIMBABWE

Mugabe, Machel Leave for Frontline States Summit

MB081156 Harare Domestic Service in English 1115 GMT 8 Mar 85

[Text] The prime minister, Comrade Robert Mugabe, and the Mozambican leader, Comrade Samora Machel, left Harare this morning to attend a 1-day summit of the heads of state and government of the Frontline States in the Zambian capital, Lusaka.

Comrade Machel arrived in Harare yesterday afternoon to brief Comrade Mugabe and President Canaan Banana on the latest developments in his country.

Mugabe Returns

MB082035 Harare Domestic Service in English 2000 GMT 8 Mar 85

[Text] The prime minister, Comrade Robert Mugabe, has returned from Zambia, where he attended a 4-hour meeting of the Frontline heads of state and government. The Frontline States condemned racist South Africa's violation of the agreement between Mozambique, Angola, and the apartheid regime.

The condemnation was contained in a statement made by the Frontline chairman, Comrade Julius Nyerere, in the Zambian capital, Lusaka. The Tanzanian president also condemned the regime's occupation of southern Angola, despite an agreement reached in Lusaka last year.

Radio Truth Cites Schism in ZANU-PF Hierarchy

MB110821 (Clandestine) Radio Truth in English to Zimbabwe 0430 GMT 11 Mar 85

[Station commentary]

[Text] We have mentioned to you before that we sensed a power struggle taking place within the heirachy of ZANU-PF. Reports now filtering in to Radio Truth suggest that Robert Mugabe's power base within both the Cabinet and the party is by no means fully established. His most dangerous opponents are said to be Eddison Zvobgo and Edgar Tekere.

We thought it was strange that the postponement of the general election until June was announced so soon after the prime minister had insisted in Parliament that the March target date must be strictly adhered to.

At the time we assumed that the prime minister had some very inefficient advisers or his crystal ball was sadly out of order.

Perhaps the reasons were a little more sinister.

It was suggested that some deliberate go-slow tactics had been applied in Minister Zvobgo's department in relation to the registration of voters and the activities of the delimitation commission. These were desiged to undermine Mr Mugabe's authority and to cast doubt on his ability to control the pace of events.

Be that as it may, there is strong reason to suppose that Robert Mugabe's popularity with the nation as a whole is not as great as he would like it to be.

These schisms within the ruling party are a welcome sign and enhance the election prospects of the present minority party.

A strong and sustained challenge from within ZANU-PF could advance the course of a government of national unity.

Dissident Says Nkomo Told of Tourist Deaths

MB081638 Harare Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 8 Mar 85

[Text] The captured leader of a dissident group which kidnapped six foreign tourists in 1982, Gilbert Sithela Ngwenya [Eskimo Mwasi], says a message was sent to ZAPU leader Joshua Nkomo notifying him of the death of the tourists. Ngwenya said this today when he met the minister of justice, legal, and parliamentary affairs, Comrade Eddison Zvobgo. Ngwenya, who was sentenced to death by the Harare high court last year, further said that after the tourists had been murdered the prime minister [as heard] urged the bandits to continue with their activities of fighting to topple the government.

The dissident leader admitted giving orders for the execution of the tourists. He said they were strangled under mounting pressure and pursuit from security forces. The self-confessed ZIPRA regional commander said he was involved in several contacts with security forces, adding that he had no problems in sending messages or reports to Nkomo.

It was not know until after his conviction of the murder of two Matabeleland farmers that Ngwenya was involved in the murder of the six tourists. The tourists were murdered on the third day of their abduction. Certain villagers in Lupane have since been arrested for their part in the murders, and all have admitted to have complicity in the burial and reburial of the bodies.